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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Condemns Riyadh Explosion

NC1411134995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed his deep regret and extreme condemnation of the criminal act in Riyadh yesterday morning, an act that contravenes Arab and Islamic values and that left six people dead and 60 wounded.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reiterated the need to intensify efforts to confront every type of violence and terrorism.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has telephoned Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to express the Arab League's condemnation and rejection of this tragic incident.

Arab League Discusses Action on U.S. Embassy Issue

NC1411145195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1215 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today chaired a meeting of the permanent envoys to discuss action by the Arab countries against the U.S. Congress' decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that this decision is fully rejected because there are constants that cannot be abandoned, including that of Jerusalem. He noted that the decision has created negative reaction in the Arab and Islamic countries and the world.

He said the meeting agreed to initiate an Arab action on several fronts, including action within the United Nations represented by coordination with the Arab group presently led by the Sultanate of Oman; the dispatch of an Arab parliamentary delegation to the U.S. Congress to tackle the issue with it through dialogue, in addition to action with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement countries to gain support for the Arab stand against this decision. He asserted that right is on our side and we are committed to it to the end.

On holding an extraordinary Arab League Council session to discuss this issue, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the secretariat general has not received a request for such a meeting from any country, but that a meeting remains a possibility. He added that the door is open for holding a Arab mini summit. He referred in this respect to the action to hold a Arab mini summit in Morocco last May to discuss the confiscation of Arab territories in Jerusalem that led Israel to rescind its decision when it found a firm Arab stand.

He added that Arab contacts on this issue are continuing and the Arab League is continuing its efforts to reach a united Arab stand.

He said that the Arab group at the United Nations will act on 29 November, Jerusalem Day, and will raise the General Assembly's resolutions on Palestine, including Jerusalem, adding that there are international resolutions, particularly on Jerusalem, which cannot be relinquished. He noted that the European Union and the European countries have condemned the U.S. Congress.

Israel's Normalization Concept Rejected

NC1511090195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0745 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant Arab League secretary general for political affairs, has stated that the Israeli interpretation of the normalization issue is out of question unless a comprehensive and just peace has been realized in the region. This is because Israel is asking Arab countries to put their resources into service for Israeli interests, he added.

In statements to today's AL-AHRAM, 'Imran urged the Arabs to adopt a real and strong position to confront the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem in 1999. He said that the Arab League issued binding resolutions that call for severing diplomatic and economic ties with any country that transfers its embassy to Jerusalem.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 31 Oct

NC0811130195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 31 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. University Students Stage Protests, Demonstrations
2. Muslim Brothers Defense Lawyers Quit Trial
3. Detained Labor Party Member on Hunger Strike
4. Wartime Mines Case Highlighted
5. Report on Amman Economic Conference, Egypt's Stance
6. Labor Party Leader Urges Arab Reconciliation
7. Chief Editor Faults Ruling Party's Non-Nomination of Copts

8. Writer Assails U.S. Congress Decision on Embassy Transfer
9. Al-Hudaybi Attacks Government's Policy, Defends Brothers
10. Man Arrested Over Election Poster
11. Article Laments al-Shaqaqi's Death, Arab Situation
12. Writer Berates Arab, Muslims' Response to Congress Decision

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STAGE PROTESTS, DEMONSTRATIONS

A 1,200-word, unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 says various university students held demonstrations and conferences to protest 'suppression of freedoms', election lists, and referral of civilians to military tribunals.

It says: "In an angry reaction, the Egyptian universities were ablaze with waves of student rage in protest against the suppression of freedoms, scrapping the names of Islamic trend candidates from student union elections, and the referral of civilians to military tribunals."

In Hulwan University, the report adds, "the Islamic trend" organized a "massive" rally in which students denounced "suppression of freedoms," the "suspect" press law, referral of civilians to military courts, and scrapping the names of more than 600 students from university election lists.

The report says similar demonstrations were held in al-Zaqaziq University, where a student rally assailed "the government's onslaught on democracy, represented by the arrest and referral of Muslim Brotherhood leaders to military courts." The Islamic students, the report goes on, issued a statement denouncing the Muslim Brothers' arrest and referral to military courts. The statement "asserts" that the arrest "serves only U.S. and Israeli interests."

MUSLIM BROTHERS DEFENSE LAWYERS QUIT TRIAL

A 600-word, front page report filed by Khalid Yunus says: "The defense lawyers in the Muslim Brotherhood leaders' first case announced yesterday, Monday, they were quitting their defense of the case because the military court refused to meet any of their demands." The report adds that this made the lawyers feel they were unable to perform their role and duties sincerely and soundly.

DETAINED LABOR PARTY MEMBER ON HUNGER STRIKE

A 90-word, unattributed report on page 1 says the Labor Party secretary in Mallawi "was in a serious condition yesterday because of his hunger strike which entered its 35th day yesterday." 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi's family discovered that his "health has collapsed and he was about to die when they visited him yesterday." The family also found out the prison authorities had cut his hair and shaved his beard.

WARTIME MINES CASE HIGHLIGHTED

In a 400-word report on pages 1 and 8, the author, Rabi' Shahin, highlights the seriousness of wartime mines placed in Egypt, noting that there are 23-30 million mines in various parts of Egypt and that they hamper development projects and cause casualties.

The report says: "Despite the seriousness of the issue, Egypt has not obtained any assistance from the United Nations, its programs, and the major powers even though the world organization devised programs to remove mines and war leftovers worldwide."

The report adds that the Egyptian armed forces have removed 11 million mines over a period of 10 years.

REPORT ON AMMAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, EGYPT'S STANCE

A 550-word report on pages 1 and 8, filed by Mahmud Bakri and Hasan al-Qamhawi, discusses the Amman economic conference. It also reviews Israel's proposal to set up " a consultative, political council comprising Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian, U.S., Palestinian, Moroccan, and Saudi leaders" to remove obstacles to economic cooperation.

The report, entitled "Differences Threaten the Normalization Conference in Amman," says: "In a written memorandum, Egypt pledged to Syria that economic cooperation measures in the region will not begin before Syria regains all its territories according to the relevant UN resolutions."

LABOR PARTY LEADER URGES ARAB RECONCILIATION

Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri writes an approximately 1,400-word article on pages 1 and 8 commenting on Egyptian and Jordanian stands at the Amman economic conference and noting the need for Arab reconciliation.

He begins his article by saying: "The verbal exchanges at the Amman summit between [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa and King Husayn highlighted the length to which the official Arab stance has gone. They showed that the disagreement is not over the way of dealing with Israel at this stage, but over estimating the danger of Israel and its role in the region. They also revealed the United States' and Israel's exploitation of Arab differences to achieve their plans in the Arab region."

He notes that King Husayn reacted to Musa's invitation to host the next economic conference in Cairo by saying that Qatar has already proposed hosting the conference. This, he adds, shows that Arab differences have stretched to the point of competing to host such conferences that "achieve no Arab interest, not now and not in the future."

He remarks that the "separate Egyptian-Israeli peace" had the greatest role in causing the Arab rift on the grounds that "the countries which are weaker than Egypt cannot bear U.S. and Israeli pressures without Egypt."

Shukri says: "What has happened clarifies that official Arab standing has become so serious that it requires a deliberate, and immediate action toward Arab reconciliation without hesitation or reluctance." He adds that if the Palestinian-Israel and Jordanian- Israeli accords revealed the "danger of separate deals with Israel, the proceedings at the Amman summit revealed that the Arab rift has begun to grow wider. They also proved "the Americans' and Israelis' gain" from this rift, he notes.

Saying that Arab reconciliation is becoming more difficult every day, he mentions "the Jordanian role in changing the regime in Iraq, Egyptian-Sudanese and Libyan-Egyptian-Sudanese-Palestinian differences over the expulsion of Arab workers from Libya." He also notes "the Syrian-Jordanian and Jordanian-Syrian-Qatari-Saudi differences all of which add to the post Gulf war disagreements."

He says: "The continuation of the official stance is threatening the entire Arab existence and heralds a long phase of division and partition. This situation will be exploited by the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation, not only to push through the current audacious accords, but also to cause a large-scale partition for a long time to come, as was the case in the Sykes-Picot Agreement whose repercussions we are still suffering."

He adds: "For God's sake, I give this advice to all Arab leaders. Act immediately toward an Arab reconciliation and do not be blinded by self-interests here and there." Our enemies' future plans will not be contented with achieving their Middle East ideal, which will destroy the Arab entity and system, but will also destroy your thrones and chairs. The Zionist-U.S. ideal your are pushing through today will require your replacement with new faces that will implement these plans."

He says that an Arab move is required and is able to make a great deal of achievement. He adds that a popular stance is crucial and urgently needed because it is "not bound by state agreements and world balances." He urges action by all parties, organizations, trade unions, associations, and public figures, toward boycotting U.S. and Israeli goods. He also urges them to advocate and exert pressure to achieve Arab reconciliation.

He says: "The nation's fate for the next 10 or 20 years is being decided now. If the people do not act to handle the current dangers, who will?" Toward the end of his article he says: "The conflict between us and the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation is now to the hilt, but all indications show the vitality of this nation. No matter what they arrange and plan and no matter if they succeed momentarily, all of what is happening will fail, God willing."

CHIEF EDITOR FAULTS RULING PARTY'S NON-NOMINATION OF COPTS

AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn writes a 650-word article on page 2 criticizing the National Democratic Party's policy on the People's Assembly elections and saying that the party excluded the Copts from its candidacy list.

He says: "The ruling party does not realize that by failing to nominate a Coptic candidate, it officially proclaimed the partitioning of the nation and that the Copts are second class citizens. But the Labor Party will remove this shame and will take in the Copts, sons of the nation. As the days pass the Copts will realize that the Islamic movement is the closest to them and the one concerned about them—more than all the hypocrites."

WRITER ASSAILS U.S. CONGRESS DECISION ON EMBASSY TRANSFER

Page 3 runs an approximately 1,200-word article by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid attacking the U.S. Congress decision on the transfer of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

He begins by saying: "The decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem by 31 May 1999 confirms the filthy U.S. role in strengthening the Zionist state all the way, in striking Arab interests, and defying Muslim feelings worldwide. This decision is a blow to the advocates of normalization with Israel and those rushing to the lap of the Zionist United States."

He adds that if President Clinton has six months to ratify it it means the measure aims to "soothe the feelings of the Arab herd moving to lie in the lap of the Zionists and the gang leader, the United States, in what is dubbed the negotiating circus, wrongfully called peace talks."

He says the decision was expected by those who "read the true situation in the region and know the Zionists' methods and absolute alliance with the United States, the master of the new world."

AL-HUDAYBI ATTACKS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, DEFENDS BROTHERS

Muhammad Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, deputy general guide and official spokesman of the Muslim Brothers, files an approximately 1,600-word article on page 5 assailing the Egyptian Government's measures against the Muslim Brotherhood and defending the movement.

He says: "All sincere people" pinned high hopes on the next People's Assembly elections because the elections coincide with serious local, regional, and world circumstances. These circumstances, he adds, are fraught with "numerous challenges threatening the Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic roles and even the Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic existence."

He says the government has made no gesture of response to the hopes of those who aspire to fair and honest elections. He adds that 10 months ahead of the elections the government arrested prominent leaders of the "moderate Islamic trend known for its nationalistic history, sacrifices, achievements," and its "historical role in liberation causes on local, Arab, and Islamic levels."

He says: "The government initiated a propaganda campaign through its newspapers to tarnish the image of the detainees and the Muslim Brothers. It also leveled against them a list of bizarre charges, such as penetration, jumping through windows, controlling trade union councils, and seeking power. Some months after the arrests, instead of rectifying the situation and reconsidering its policies and actions, the government referred the detainees to military courts. This coincided with a series of new arrests, a new list of strange charges, and the escalation of the smear and defamation campaign."

He then cites "facts" about the Muslim Brothers. He says the Muslim Brothers, "out of their belief in and understanding of God's law, have stated that they are the advocates of the cause of God." The Muslim Brothers, he adds, have asserted their rejection of violence, terrorism, and fighting. "All are alike in their rights and duties, especially in the right to freedom and security and in the duty of participation and assuming a sound nationalist role," he says. He goes on to state that the Muslim Brothers also support democracy and the freedom to establish parties and publish newspapers.

MAN ARRESTED OVER ELECTION POSTER

A 60-word, unattributed report on page 7 says the State Security detectives detained a man for 40 days in Abu-Za'bal Prison for putting up a poster of an Islamic alliance election candidate. Asked by the detainee why he was arrested, the officer in charge replied: "Hanging posters is not a crime. The crime is that the slogan Islam is the Solution is written on the poster," the report says.

ARTICLE LAMENTS AL-SHAQAQI'S DEATH, ARAB SITUATION

An approximately 800-word article written by Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh appears on page 8 of AL-SHA'B.

Entitled "Farewell To Fathi al-Shaqaqi. It is Truly a bad Time," the article pays tribute to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader al-Shaqaqi, who was murdered in Malta, and grieves the Arab situation.

The writer says that amid the sorrow over al-Shaqaqi's assassination, he "senses the humiliation of the nation to which we belong and the humiliation of its leaders." He adds that the humiliation of the Palestinians who have undertaken to resolve the Palestinian issue "doubles with grief over al-Shaqaqi."

He says: "The tragedy of the deteriorating Arab situation doubles our grief over Fathi al-Shaqaqi. The Arab leaders' description of the "mujahidin in Palestine" as terrorists "increases our sorrow over al-Shaqaqi." He adds that "what also doubles our grief is that "general trend of the leaders of this nation who regarded the 1973 war as the last war." Thus they "halted or annulled the jihad duty," he says.

WRITER BERATES ARAB, MUSLIMS' RESPONSE TO CONGRESS DECISION

AL-SHA'B's page 12 features an approximately 750-word article written by al-Sayyid al-Ghadban criticizing the Arab and Muslim response to the U.S. move on the transfer of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

The writer begins by saying that "Jerusalem is lost. Leaders of the Arab and Islamic countries, not the U.S. Congress or Israel, caused the loss of Jerusalem, he adds. He goes on to say that the United States and Israel knew these leaders' "humility and subjugation" and knew "beyond doubt" that these leaders were willing to "kiss the American hand even when it slaps them." He says: "This is the truth and there is no call for us to swear at the United States and the U.S. Congress."

He attacks Arab leaders for inaction and notes that Saudi Arabia concluded a deal with the United States to purchase U.S. aircraft despite the Congress decision on the embassy transfer.

Concluding his article, he says the Arab and Islamic masses must not despair and should boycott every U.S. commodity. "Let the masses' slogan be No to Everything American," he adds.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 3 Nov

NC0911193595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 3 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party Announces Election Program
2. Israel Accused of Introducing Satanism Into Egypt
3. Muslim Brotherhood Detainees Denied Food and Medicine
4. Reports Highlight Election Faults
5. University Students Demonstrate Against Abuse
6. Labor Party Figure, Muslim Brotherhood Denounce al-Shaqaqi Assassination
7. Writer Criticizes Egypt's Policy Against Muslim Brotherhood
8. Writer Faults Amman Economic Summit Outcome
9. Arab Reaction to U.S. Congress Bill on Jerusalem Criticized

LABOR PARTY ANNOUNCES ELECTION PROGRAM

This issue's leading item is the Labor Party's electoral program whose 4,500-word full text is published in large print on pages 6-7 under banner headlines reading: "Islam Is the Solution: O Believers in God and the Day of Judgment, Be on the Side of Righteousness. Beware of Neglecting Your Duty. The Labor Party's Program for Comprehensive Reform."

The program consists of the 11 points summarized below.

The first point stresses that "Islamic society and the Islamic state" rest on the foundation of belief in one God, a principle that shields the individual from fearing "any tyrant or arrogant ruler." The family is responsible for teaching this precept to its children.

Second, the media, the theater, and the cinema should reinforce family upbringing by "disseminating virtues" through artistic productions that use standard grammatical Arabic, "the language of the Koran with which the nation has been honored." This language must be developed to absorb new scientific developments.

Third, a plan must be drawn up to eradicate illiteracy, provide free school education to everyone, facilitate university education for all, restore teachers' prestige and improve their pay, and promote religious and patriotic sentiment. This point stresses the use of Arabic as a medium of instruction and calls for "the gradual elimination of the schism between educational institutions, particularly the schism resulting from the existence of an educational sector that has a foreign identity."

The fourth point declares that sports are a "religious duty" that should be made available to everyone. It advocates participation in international events.

Fifth, a modicum of free or low-cost medical treatment should be provided to all citizens to eradicate the country's "endemic diseases," with special focus on preventive medicine, an unpolluted environment, and the encouragement of a domestic pharmaceutical industry.

Sixth, the program advocates more high-rise residential construction to avoid building new housing on agricultural land and urges the use of locally produced building materials. It also calls for a well-balanced relationship between landlords and tenants.

The seventh point acknowledges that the natural sciences have a universal character but says that Egypt should develop its own technologies in a way suitable to its needs. It advocates collective scientific research with other Arab countries and more government spending for this purpose.

The eighth point deals with the economy and urges development of the agricultural and industrial sectors to achieve higher production. Acknowledging that future economic development will rely on private enterprise, the program says that public sector companies should not be neglected but improved. If they are sold they should be sold at a fair price to Egyptian and Arab investors only.

The ninth point calls for constitutional changes based on the shari'ah. The changes advocated include guarantees for human rights, freedom of expression, assembly, and peaceful demonstration, equal access to the media for all political parties, and equality between Muslims and Christians in civic and political rights. Other advocated constitutional changes include a provision for a more balanced relationship between the powers to end "the current tyranny of the executive branch," electing the president from among "more than one candidate," adding new provisions to buttress the independence of the judiciary, and increasing the powers of the People's Assembly to enable it to take the executive branch to account.

The tenth point stresses the need to build strong armed forces to "deter the enemies of our renaissance" and defend the Arab and Islamic nation. Noting that "Israel, with its expansionist schemes and international alliances, poses the primary threat to Egyptian and pan-Arab security," the program declares:

"Our Armed Forces' tasks extend beyond Egypt's borders. They are required to defend all the holy places and assist the other Arab countries against any foreign aggression. Hence the Armed Forces must be able to move inside the Arab homeland from the Gulf to the Atlantic."

The program urges: "We must confront the restrictions imposed on the arming of the Egyptian forces and on our acquisition of weapons able to deter the weapons of mass destruction that the Zionists possess."

It adds: "While paying due attention to technological improvement in the sphere of armament for self-defense purposes and to confront the current Israeli superiority, we must rely basically on our overwhelming superiority in manpower."

The program's 11th and final point deals with foreign relations. It urges closer ties with Islamic nations and "oppressed countries" in Asia, Africa, and Latin America with a special focus on the new industrial nations in East Asia, including the "two ascending Chinese and Indian giants."

It says that Egypt can benefit from the current contradictions and rivalries among the industrial countries of the north, "bearing in mind that not all the competing international blocs show the same degree of hostility to Arab and Islamic renaissance."

The program says that Egypt should not quiescently accept everything it is told to do but can confront "the tyrants of the international order."

It makes the following comments about Israel:

"We must stay alert to the schemes that Israel plots against our nation. Hence we reject and resist all that is advocated about a Middle Eastern market and consider it a hostile substitute for Arab and Islamic unity and a plan to establish a Greater Israel and allow it to dominate the region."

"We will not stop jihad by various means to liberate the territory that the enemy occupies, notably Jerusalem. We believe that an integrated approach to implement the provisions of this program is the basic path to readjust the balance of power with the enemy and force it to withdraw."

The above item is accompanied, in descending order, by three passport-type photos of party leader Ibrahim Shukri, deputy party leader Hilmi Murad, and party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn.

In a 1,000-word boxed announcement appended to the program above on page 7, the Labor Party clarifies its position on women and Egyptian Christian Copts. While noting that a woman's primary responsibility is to bring up children and care for her family, the announcement says that the Labor Party also believes that she should get an education and train for a profession in case she must work one day. It adds that a woman can participate in political life.

Citing verses from the Koran about coexistence with non-Muslims, particularly Christians, the announcement says that the Labor Party's election program contains nothing that contradicts the aspirations of the Copts and declares that some of the party's candidates are Coptic.

ISRAEL ACCUSED OF INTRODUCING SATANISM INTO EGYPT

A 2,000-word article on page 4 by Hasan al-Qamhawi discusses satanic cult members in Egypt. He says satanism was introduced into the country by Israel with the aim of undermining religion and morality. The writer refers to satanic groups in Tel Aviv and Netanya and some in Cairo, including a group in Cairo's al-Zamalik district. He says that the fact that satanists use ancient Hebrew incantations proves the "Jewish-Zionist role" in the growth of this movement.

After describing various satanic rites that he says are used by Israeli and Egyptian-based groups, the writer concludes that this demonstrates the "Zionists' hostile intentions and the fact that they are a hotbed of corruption and the nation's destruction."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD DETAINEES DENIED FOOD AND MEDICINE

In a 350-word report on pages 1 and 8, Qutb al-'Arabi and Khalid Yunus claim that the military court issued an order denying the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] detainees food and medicine. They note that the military court in Haekstep will resume hearing the first part of the MB trial in an uncertain atmosphere after the two surprises in the 1 November session. During the session the defense panel assigned by the court walked out and asked to be relieved on the grounds that at the first hearing Lawyers Doyen Ahmad al-Khawajah and the defense panel walked out because they were convinced the case is "political and not criminal." They note that the other surprise came when the military prosecution representative refused to litigate, saying he is content with the case files. It is surprising, the reporters say, to hear the president of the court say at the hearing that "the prosecution demands that maximum punishment be meted out to the defendants." The report notes that three Amnesty International lawyers attended the hearing.

REPORTS HIGHLIGHT ELECTION FAULTS

An unattributed 500-word report on pages 1 and 8 notes that the south Cairo prosecution office ordered the release of Ahmad Sayf al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, Lawyers Association secretary general and Islamic candidate for the al-Darb al-Ahmar constituency, along with five of his supporters. In a statement to AL-SHA'B, al-Banna said his detention was one of the measures to "restrain the Islamic trend candidates" and their supporters. He stressed that such methods will produce "counter results." The report says that Labor Party Deputy Leader Dr. Hilmi Murad attended the police interrogation of al-Banna. It cites an MB statement which stressed that all of the security sources' allegations and accusations against the Islamic figures are "false and intended to distort the good image of the MB and its ideology."

A 100-word unattributed report on page 1 says that the security forces in Port Said tore apart Islamic candidates' placards highlighting "Islam is the Solution," and fabricated lawsuits against them in "flagrant defiance of the candidates of the Labor Party and the Islamic trend."

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 says that at a meeting with the masses and youths of Madinat Nasr, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn announced that he will stand up to "corruption and corruptors" and is "determined to confront any attempt to rig the will of the masses in the elections." He exhorted the masses and youths to go to the polls to give their "testimony before God" and prevent the corrupt from rigging the elections.

A 200-word report on page 1 says that 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi, the Labor party candidate in Mallawi, has been on a hunger strike for 38 days in protest of his torture in prison. The report notes that he was detained by the authorities because of his overwhelming popularity in his constituency.

In an approximately 1,000-word article entitled "Is It Shrewdness by the National Democratic Party [NDP] or a New Violation of the Constitution," on pages 1 and 8, Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri castigates the government for abusing the candidates' election symbols. He says the authorities use a standard symbol for the ruling NDP, which is known to everyone, while they give the opposition and independent candidates ridiculous symbols to confuse the voters and make them choose the ruling party's candidates. He says this "farce poses a threat to the upcoming People's Assembly." He questions the government's talk about the election's integrity and equality and that it will not tamper with them. He stresses that all the statements saying that government officials welcome all parties to the elections are "untrue and deceptive."

In a 2,400-word report on page 3, Khalid Yunis reviews the proceedings at the second hearing of the MB members trials. He notes the conflict of the jurisdictions between the military court and the Higher Constitutional Court in hearing the case. He says that Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, former People's Assembly member and Doctors Association deputy secretary general, read a statement in the docks asking the court on behalf of the MB members to release them so that they can run for the elections because participation in the elections is a national duty according to the Constitution. The report stresses that the trial has shown that the "case is political and the two adversaries are the ruling NDP and the MB." He underlines that the trial violates the Constitution, which stipulates that every man has a right to be tried before an ordinary court.

A boxed 300-word statement by the defense panel read at the court notes that panel members studied the proceedings of the 31 October session and in view of the failure of the court officers to respond to written requests, and since the lawsuit lacks any criminal evidence, the defense panel asserts that it will not continue the case. The panel members stress that they realize the "political nature of the case" and that there is no criminal evidence to incriminate the detainees. "They leave the court officers to their own consciences" and decide to release the defendants.

In a 1,600-word article on page 5, entitled: "O Interior Minister, You Have No Right To Keep Silent About This Major Crime," Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn addresses citizens, intellectuals, and writers, claiming that Egyptian rulers are refusing to allow both foreign and local observers to oversee the elections because of rigging. He says to leave aside the terrorization of journalists by implementing law 93 against AL-SHA'B chief editor Majdi Husayn and trying the MB candidates before the military courts. He asks intellectuals and the people if they cannot see how all the state's resources are being used to serve the NDP candidates. Noting that the NDP candidates have been given one standard symbol to distinguish them from others, unlike all the other parties, he claims that all government departments, governors, and vehicles are geared to serve the NDP candidates.

He notes that all government-controlled radio and television stations are "constantly harping on the NDP achievements and accomplishments" without allowing anyone to respond. The NDP candidates are exploiting all media services, which are denied to the opposition. Noting President Mubarak's recent remark to the voters to accept money from candidates but to vote for those who can serve Egypt, Husayn says that everyone knows that President Mubarak's party is the one that "spends the most funds to buy votes." He claims that the NDP candidates, particularly senior officials and ministers, "do not pay from their own pockets but from the state's pocket." President Mubarak, he says, was "expected to order a halt to this squandering of funds and corruption," but instead, he was "amused at this tragedy." He claims that election rigging is occurring because the rulers know that the people cannot be misled. He says that rigging is particularly rife in his constituency of Madinat Nasr and explains and gives examples. He says that the interior minister has no right to keep silent about this ugly crime.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST ABUSE

'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad, Mu'tazz al-Hadidi, and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid report in an approximately 2,000 word article on pages 1 and 3 that students of various Egyptian universities staged massive demonstrations throughout the week to protest the striking out of the names of thousands of students to prevent them from running in student union elections. The report notes that massive demonstrations were staged at the Universities of Cairo, al-Azhar, al-Minufiyah, 'Ayn Shams, al-Zaqaziz, and al-Mansurah. Claiming that the security agencies and university administrations excluded the names of more than 14,000 candidates, the report says that student representatives and leaders declared their boycott of the elections and "denounced the election rigging, denying university independence, and the continued trial of the MB." The report claims that dozens of plain clothes security men entered the campus and that the security forces surrounded the university buildings with vehicles to prevent students from leaving the campus and joining the masses on the streets. Noting that classes came to a halt in most colleges, the report says that the students announced that they will continue their protests until the candidates are allowed to run in the elections.

LABOR PARTY FIGURE, MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD DENOUNCE AL-SHAQAQI ASSASSINATION

A 150-word report on page 1 says that Dr. Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad, Labor Party Executive Committee member, attended a massive memorial service for Islamic Jihad leader Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi at al-Quds Mosque in Tripoli, Libya, on 29 October, before his body was flown to Damascus for burial. Noting that Ahmad delivered the first and main eulogy at the service, the report says that thousands of Libyans staged demonstrations in front of the Maltese Embassy in Tripoli and called for uncovering the assassins and avenging the martyr al-Shaqaqi.

In a 220-word article on page 2, Dr. Isam al-'Aryan, an MB figure currently under detention, claims that the Mosad assassinated Islamic Jihad leader Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Malta. He says that new blood has been added to the rivers of blood that will "continue to flow until Jerusalem and Palestine are liberated." He notes that MB members were the first to sacrifice their blood for this cause. Noting his old friendship with al-Shaqaqi, he says that al-Shaqaqi was a staunch supporter of the Islamic revolution in Iran, paid homage to Khomeyni, and called for rallying around this revolution.

A 60-word report appears on page 8 citing the MB cable to the Islamic Jihad on the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. The cable says that from the premise and principle of the duty to struggle against the Zionist enemy, who committed crimes against the Arab and Islamic land of Palestine, the MB was saddened by the assassination of al-Shaqaqi, whom the "treacherous Zionist hand stabbed in the back." The MB confirms that jihad is the only way to liberate Palestine.

WRITER CRITICIZES EGYPT'S POLICY AGAINST MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

In a 1,800-word article on page 5 entitled: "Egypt Between an Acceptable Political Conflict and Rejected Official Terrorism," Kamal al-Hilbawi, from the International Political Studies Center in London, says that in a sudden development and "an abuse of power under the emergency law," President Mubarak detained and referred the MB leaders to military courts. He claims that the authorities detained these figures unjustly and without specific charges. The Egyptian authorities' goal is to "deny the popular Islamic leaders their right to run in the elections and to distort the MB image before the voters" so that they will not win seats in the future People's Assembly.

The upcoming stage is one of total normalization with the Zionist enemy and capping the U.S. achievements during President Clinton's term by imposing Zionism on the Arab and Islamic region. The authorities, he claims, also seek to make the future People's Assembly consist mainly of the ruling party with nominal weak opposition to "diminish Egypt's Islamic identity," deny these defendants the immunity and guarantees of an ordinary judiciary, and to make the MB give up Islamic action. Long-term goals, among others, he maintains, are to satisfy the new world order, divert the attention of the Islamic peoples from the "crimes and excesses imposed by the peace process with the Zionist entity" on the ruling regimes in the Arab region, and keep the Egyptian people silent about the suspicious emergency law, the terrorism law, and the press law, which constitute "a mark of disgrace" for the nation. He urges the Egyptian Government to reconsider its policy, which lacks constitutional grounds, and to cherish human rights as enshrined in the Constitution and the Declaration of Human Rights.

WRITER FAULTS AMMAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT OUTCOME

In a 1,500-word article on page 9, Muhammd Jamal 'Arafah notes that one week before the Amman Economic Summit, the Arab Boycott Office announced for the fifth time postponement of its meeting because more than half the Arab countries are not enthusiastic and some 14 Arab countries have diplomatic or economic ties with Israel. He argues that since 13 Arab countries attended the Amman conference along with hundreds of government officials and businessmen, it would not be surprising if the boycott office of Israel, which has been paralyzed for three years, were to be liquidated in the near future. He claims that the Amman Summit aims to establish joint projects between the Arab countries and Israel. He notes that the conference deliberations showed that the goal is to give Israel, which already has military and nuclear superiority, a leading economic role in the region and incorporate it in the Arab body.

Arab and Israeli businessmen discussed joint projects even though the ink with which the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem was written and the blood of assassinated Islamic Jihad leader al-Shiqaqi had not dried. He argues that Western and European officials and businesses talk of Israel as an advanced center of technology. Israel likewise seeks to invest its advanced technology and Arab funds and cheap labor. The writer asks why the Arab countries accept the Zionist desire to be the center of land, maritime, and air communications and to establish water, gas, and technological projects in Israel while it continues its aggression against south Lebanon, Islamic figures, and occupation of Syrian and Lebanese territory, and Jerusalem.

ARAB REACTION TO CONGRESS BILL ON JERUSALEM CRITICIZED

In a 1,000-word article entitled "Jerusalem Is Getting Lost; Clinton Will Not Move; What Will the Arabs and Muslims Do" on page 9, Muna Yasin says that when U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole proposed in June a plan to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, Warren Christopher warned him against raising this issue, which is sensitive for Arabs and Muslims and might adversely affect the peace process. Four months later, the Congress unanimously approved the bill. It seems that Christopher had in mind the Arab reaction to the Israeli decision to confiscate Arab land in Jerusalem five months ago. None of what Christopher expected has happened. Despite this decision, the Amman Economic Conference made no mention of Jerusalem. The Arab parties were not aroused, not even by Rabin's provocative remarks about the city. The U.S. Congress decision, he says, runs counter to all UN resolutions on the city, to the U.S. declared policy on it, and even to the agreements signed in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo. Thus, Yasin argues, "there are no guarantees" that the United States and Israel "will not back down on other clauses in the agreements that have been signed." Therefore, "there is no need for further agreements that are not honored by their signatories."

Given the Arab reaction when Israel decided to confiscate Arab land in Jerusalem, Christopher expected a stronger Arab stance on the Congress bill. However, what has really happened is that the Arabs "clung tighter to the settlement process." The strongest Arab country went so far as to "beseech that the Congress decision not stop the settlement process and that no one mention Jerusalem at the Amman Summit so as not to harm the situation."

Yasin asserts that the U.S. stance was not taken suddenly but has existed for a long time and the appropriate atmosphere to be made public was being awaited. The Arab reaction, Yasin maintains, shows the "deadlock that is tightening on the parties that took part in the settlement." These parties feed on the "illusions of economic prosperity." She says that the Arab countries, which missed the opportunity to immediately withdraw from the Amman Summit, have not yet missed the opportunity to call for an urgent summit to place before the United States and Israel the "only option of either going back on that decision or stopping the settlement process, which entails sacrificing U.S. interests in the Arab and Islamic countries." This would be better than waiting for President Clinton's decision to defer implementing the decision.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 5 Nov

NC1411095395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Detained Party Member Describes Prison Conditions
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DETAINED PARTY MEMBER DESCRIBES PRISON CONDITIONS

The health of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi, Labor Party secretary in Mallawi who has been detained since 28 September, has deteriorated and his life is now in danger, a 1,200 word unattributed report on page 1 notes. Lutfi, who went on a hunger strike after having been taken to Wadi al-Natrun prison 40 days ago, is now unable to move, speak, or hear and went into coma a few days ago, the report adds. A responsible source in the Labor Party notes that the party holds President Mubarak responsible for the life of Shaykh Lutfi, who was arrested under the emergency law, was not interrogated, and no charges were pressed against him. His detention followed his decision to run in the elections in his home town, Mallawi. Before going on the hunger strike, Lutfi released a statement describing the circumstances leading to his arrest at the party's office in Mallawi, where a meeting of the detainees' families in al-Minya Governorate was scheduled to be held. He was asked by policemen to accompany them to meet a named officer for "five minutes." Instead, he was taken to a cell where others, including Christians, were being held. He describes how he was beaten and "crucified" for four hours and later moved to Wadi al-Natrun prison. After announcing his determination to go on the hunger strike "until death," Lutfi adds: "I want to tell the interior minister that the Egyptian Human Rights Organization's report on torture in Egyptian prisons is a fraction of the truth. The report does not distort Egypt's image, as you claimed. What severely distorts Egypt's image is the torture that I have seen with my own eyes and that has compelled me to tell the torturers at the State Security Intelligence Department in al-Minya as loud as I can that Jews are more compassionate than you. I also say to the interior minister that your soldiers are more evil than Jews, for Jews killed the POW's but did not torture them. As for your soldiers, they inflict the most brutal types of torture on prisoners and, after all, murder is much easier to take than torture."

FBI REPORTEDLY HANDS OVER ISLAMIC GROUP FIGURE TO EGYPT

A 140-word unattributed report on page 1 says: "The Danish news agency THIRD WORLD PRESS has reported that the FBI handed over to Egypt Islamic Group spokesman Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, who disappeared in mid-September during a visit to Croatia. The news agency adds that the FBI for some time had been pursuing Qasim, who is suspected of having links to Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Croatian authorities handed him over to U.S. intelligence, which handed him over to the Egyptian Government after questioning him for two days. He was transferred aboard the Egyptian ship al-Samir and is now being held at the intelligence bureau in Madinat al-Nasr. The Egyptian Government has promised the U.S. Government that it will not carry out the death sentence handed down against Qasim in September 1992."

UNFAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES, HARASSMENT REPORTED

The election "battle" and the "sharp decline" in the popularity of the National Democratic Party [NDP] candidates are said to have been the focus of intensive meetings held over a period of two days among security officials, a 400-word report on page 1 notes. Discussion during the meeting revealed that if the elections were to proceed "fairly," the NDP is certain to lose its majority in the newly elected parliament, the report adds. The conferees noted the "rising popularity" of the Islamic Alliance candidates in various constituencies. In this connection, the report adds that the "harassment" of Islamic Alliance candidates continues in various constituencies, particularly where leading figures are nominated. The candidates' posters have been torn and a number of their supporters have been arrested.

A 300-word unattributed report on the same page notes that security officials have prevented an election "march" organized by two Labor Party candidates, Naji As'ad and Najla' al-Qalyubi, in Shubra on 1 November.

A 400-word unattributed report on the same page notes that the government has "squandered" 4 million Egyptian pounds of the people's money on propaganda for NDP candidates using public transportation in Cairo, Alexandria, the Delta, and Upper Egypt. [A picture published on page 2 shows an NDP election poster mounted on top of a metro car. The poster, which displays the NDP name, reads: With the people and for the people, we will build Egypt's future.] The report adds that this "farce" follows the scandal of the unfair distribution of election "symbols" among candidates. To facilitate voting by illiterate voters, each candidate is identified by a symbol on the ballot. In addition, the report notes that state-owned departments, which are to remain neutral in the elections, are all devoted to serving NDP candidates. Owners of shops, cafes, and bakeries are threatened with fines and court actions if they fail to back NDP candidates, the report adds.

MB CANDIDATE AL-BANNA DETAINED, RELEASED

A 120-word unattributed report on page 1 notes that for the second time in a week, Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, a Muslim Brotherhood [MB] leading figure and parliamentary candidate, was detained by security authorities; this time was following the 3 November Friday prayers. He was arrested on charges of initiating a peaceful march in front of a mosque in the al-Darb al-Ahmar district of Cairo. The report adds that "thousands of worshipers" gathered around him and voiced support for his candidacy. Al-Banna and several of his supporters were held at the Cairo Security Directorate for five hours and were released after promising not to start more marches, the report adds.

PARTY LEADER VIEWS EGYPT'S LEADING ROLE

In a 1,500-word article on pages 1 and 2, Labor Party Chairman Ibrahim Shukri discusses the need for Egypt to regain its leading pan-Arab role. He notes that the current state of affairs in the Arab world could result in "horrendous evils and dangers." He argues that since Egypt is the "heart" and the natural and historic leader of the Arab world, abandoning its role will leave the Arab world disintegrated. Reviewing the current situation in the Arab world, Shukri points out that the Arab states are either working separately or in small groups to serve their interests, while the Arab League's role has become "symbolic." In addition, he adds, Arabs no longer agree on the "degree of danger" that Israel poses. Some Arabs are "running" to embrace Israel while others are leaving their affairs in the hands of the U.S.-Zionist command. This, he adds, has placed the Arab region at a crossroads of two "colonialist ventures": the Middle East market, which is adopted by the United States; and Mediterraneanism, which is adopted by Europe. What is even worse, he adds, is that the Americans and Zionists are trying to detach the Gulf region from the Arab body and make it their own sphere of influence, while the Europeans are trying to make North Africa their sphere of influence. As for Egypt, the plan is to "isolate" it and turn it into a country with no role, other than that dictated by the Americans and Zionists. In view of this situation, he adds, Egypt must accept the "challenge" and take the initiative to restore to the Arabs their dignity and unity, even if this involves making short-term sacrifices to serve future purposes. He points out that toward that end, Egypt could rely on the "enormous" support of the Arab people and non-governmental organizations. For instance, he adds, Egypt could declare its break of the embargo imposed against Libya and Iraq. Furthermore, he adds, the world situation is not that bad, as events prove that the United States' power is "eclipsing" and that its current rivals, Europe, Japan, and China, can do much. Thus, strong steps toward these nations could change the current U.S. monopoly of the Arab region into a new situation under which Egypt becomes the defender of Arab interests, he concludes.

WRITER SAYS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD NECESSITATED BY SHARI'AH

A 1,200-word article by Khalid 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Awdah, a university professor and MB sympathizer, notes that the MB derives its legitimacy from the provisions of the Islamic shari'ah. He argues that since the country's Constitution stipulates that Egypt is an Islamic country, Islam is the state's official religion, and that Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation, the MB group's existence is unquestionable. The group's goals, he adds, are in line with the goals stipulated in the Constitution and any action that serves the principles of shari'ah is constitutionally valid, even if it was not enacted by a law issued by the executive authority. He adds: "Therefore, the validity of the MB's existence is not affected by the recognition or non-recognition of it by the Egyptian Government." He points out the accusations against the MB that it is promoting ideas that run counter to the Constitution are invalid, because promoting the call for Islam is a legitimate duty, calling for the implementation of Islamic shari'ah is a Constitutional demand, and mobilizing public support to gain the necessary majority to change the regime is a legitimate goal that is in line with democracy. Concluding, he notes that the Muslim brothers are not weak as their enemies claim. Their strength lies in their ability for endurance, steadfastness, and self-restraint, which are the necessary ingredients to continue their call and its survival for generations. 'Awdah urges the government, without naming it, to stay away from religion, which is the people's only shelter against poverty, corruption, and sins; and to keep its hand off those who promote religion, for they are offering the people the only means of rescue left for members of this nation, after hunger and calamities have become widespread and people have given up hope of remedy.

ISLAMIST STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE, DENOUNCE MILITARY TRIALS

A 100-word unattributed report on page 2 notes that hundreds of students at 'Ayn Shams University in Cairo demonstrated on 2 November to protest the banning of Islamist students from running in the student union elections. The students called for fair elections, an end to the military trials against the MB, and the abrogation of all ill-reputed laws restricting the activity of students within the university.

Palestinian Affairs

Security Service Foils 'Arafat Assassination Plot

NC1511075595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0739 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Citing Palestinian security sources, press reports have said that the Palestinian security service in the Gaza Strip arrested five persons in the Strip two days ago suspected of belonging to the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna, leader of the Fatah-the Revolutionary Council] group and of planning to assassinate Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Paris Radio Monte Carlo cited a Palestinian official, who asked to remain anonymous, as saying that the would-be killers came from Libya and Algeria with the aim of carrying out their plan.

The radio added that the security organs in the Gaza Strip have intensified guard on the Palestinian president and other Palestinian figures. It has also been decided to adopt intensive security measures to foil any other attempt, the radio said.

Steps Up Security Around 'Arafat

TA1511100095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] After Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination, the Palestinian security services stepped up the security around Yasir 'Arafat, including various measures involving his home and office in Gaza. Furthermore, the Palestinian security services have stepped up their alert in the sphere of intelligence. They suspect that, learning that Rabin's death failed to stop the peace process, extreme elements will try to stop it by assassinating 'Arafat.

A senior Palestinian security service source told me that the alert bore fruit when five Palestinians affiliated with Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] organization were detained in Gaza several days ago. The five came to the Strip from Libya and Algeria and are suspected of planning to assassinate 'Arafat and several other Palestinian notables. Their investigation continues, and the investigators believe that additional elements, such as Libya and Iran, may be behind the assassination plan.

Following the arrests, the various Palestinian Authority [PA] security services held consultations and analyzed the situation. The Palestinians fear that radical elements will also attempt to hurt King Husayn or Shim'on Peres in a bid to disrupt the peace process. Palestinian security figures noted during the consultations that the Islamic Jihad has not yet carried out its pledge to avenge Fathi al-Shaqaqi's assassination.

It was recommended at the meeting that senior PA officials not all appear together at public events, and that they split up in order to reduce the risk of a multiple attack on the PA leadership in the event of an assassination attempt.

It was further agreed that intelligence cooperation with the Israeli security services will be intensified in a bid to foil assassination attempts against political figures.

This was not the first time that Abu-Nidal's men have been arrested inside the autonomy. About a year ago, an Abu-Nidal squad that planned to assassinate 'Arafat was detained in the Strip. The squad was led by an engineer who was a resident of Gaza.

Jordanian Weekly Reports Plan To Assassinate 'Arafat

JN1411162695 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
15 Nov 95 p 9

[Report by Ra'id Salihah in New York]

[FBIS Translated Text] High ranking sources have told AL-BILAD that a plan has been drawn up and approved in Tehran to assassinate Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and that the Iranian-financed operation will be carried out by Ahmad Jibril's group.

The sources said that the plan was ready long before the slaying of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, but that the incident would delay the operation a few weeks.

A senior Palestinian official, who has recently visited the United States, said that the Palestinian security organs were aware of the details of the plan and that they feared it would be carried out through Damascus.

The official also said the Palestinian leadership doubts that the Syrian leadership would play a role in this regard. The Syrian president, he said, told a Palestinian leader at a private meeting that he would not allow the assassination plan to be carried out from Damascus.

The official added that Jibril's group resorted to Iran to carry out the plan, that it has obtained Iran's blessings, that the entire plan was prepared in Tehran in the presence of high ranking Iranian security figures, and that the group has also obtained the support and blessings of several Palestinian groups that are based in Damascus.

Reliable sources asserted that security measures around 'Arafat's office were not tightened as a result of Rabin's assassination but because the Palestinian security authorities knew well that the date of the operation was nearing. However, reports that say these measures were tightened around 'Arafat because the assassination plan was discovered are intended to intimidate the would-be assassins psychologically, as the plan has not yet been foiled.

The sources also said that the security organs were aware that the operation would be carried out in the liberated Palestinian territories during a mass rally.

The sources pointed out that the plan was intended to stop the peace process after suicide attempts in the occupied territories and Israel failed to stop the process.

AL-BILAD has learned from a senior Arab diplomat in New York that Moscow has warned Palestinian President 'Arafat of the plan and urged him to take more security measures. It also said that the recent security measures around 'Arafat's office should not be temporary.

In Washington, a senior U.S. official announced that Tehran had blessed the plan but did not agree to carry it out in any Arab or foreign state for fear of future political repercussions. This shows that the plan will be carried out in Palestinian territories.

Some sources said that the plan was likely to be carried out during a popular reception for 'Arafat in a Palestinian city, which will soon be taken over by the Palestinian National Authority.

These sources ruled out that the plan would target several other Palestinian leaders of the Palestinian Authority and said that 'Arafat alone was the target.

PLO's Qaddumi Views 'Fanaticism' in Israel

NC1211064695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2142 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi arrived here this evening to attend the PLO Executive Committee meetings, which will open tomorrow, Sunday, and last for two days.

Qaddumi said upon arrival that the meetings will discuss the latest developments in the region, the question of Jerusalem, the Palestinian refugees, and the peace process.

Commenting on the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Qaddumi said that this incident has serious implications, noting that fanaticism within Israeli society poses a threat to the regional peace process. Qaddumi pointed out that extremism in Israel has adversely affected the implementation of some of the agreements signed between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. He referred in this regard to the Jewish settlers' confiscation of some Palestinian villages and lands with complaisance from the Israeli government, which encouraged them. He stressed that this complaisance has resulted in Rabin's assassination.

Qaddumi noted that terrorism has become an Israeli custom and norm in dealings. It has become a social malady that is not easy to eliminate, particularly during the stages of the peace process, which require a spirit of tolerance and coexistence, he added. He said that peace will disclose more of the Israeli contradictions, despite what is being said about signs of democracy in Israel. Qaddumi referred to the repeated violations by Jewish settlers against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

PLO Executive Discusses Electoral Law

NC1311074095 Paris AFP in English
0109 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 13 (AFP)—PLO leaders on Monday [13 November] will spend a second day debating the future of their peace deal with Israel, following the assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhaq Shamir, as well as voting procedures to elect an 82-member self-rule council.

The Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee opened its meeting here Sunday, the first since Rabin's murder November 4 by a right-wing Jewish extremist, under chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

A PLO official said an electoral law governing autonomy elections on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank set for January 20 dominated discussions.

In a statement to AFP, committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani stressed "that members of the Palestine National Council (PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile) who have returned to the Palestinian territories have the right to run in the elections."

But a Palestinian source who asked not to be named said "'Arafat spoke against the candidacy of PNC members, saying the PNC will have a status superior to that of the self-rule council."

The Palestinian finance "minister," Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, said the electoral law "won't be finally adopted during this meeting because it needs much deeper study and should be looked at by all the political blocs."

The Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS, which has opposed PLO- Israeli peace moves, "has already sent its comments, which concern only the procedures and modalities of the elections," he disclosed, without providing details.

al-Nashashibi said HAMAS would "most probably" take part in the elections by forming a political party, adding that "already the names of several members of this party's directing office have been announced."

The law under examination gives the right to "any literate Palestinian over 18 years old to run as a candidate" for the autonomy council, al-Nashashibi said.

Before Sunday's session 'Arafat said "there are contacts to hold a meeting in Cairo in the coming days" to reconcile PLO and HAMAS.

al-Nashashibi said the executive committee on Sunday also gave thought to the impact on peace efforts of the loss of Rabin, who joined 'Arafat and acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in forging a landmark declaration of principles in 1993 that set the process in motion.

Peres has already assured 'Arafat that an Israeli troop redeployment would continue on schedule from six West Bank towns until the end of the year.

Orient House To Mark 'Palestine' Anniversary

TA1411170795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat is the sponsor of an event scheduled to take place tomorrow at Orient House in Jerusalem, in which the Palestinians will celebrate the seventh anniversary of their declaration of independence. This is the text of the invitation sent to foreign ambassadors and consuls in Israel who were invited to participate in the event. Officials at the Prime Minister's Office said that the matter is being investigated. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin Segal recording] A senior Foreign Ministry source involved in the negotiations with the Palestinians told us that the invitations sent by Orient House constitute a flagrant violation of the agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. However, the issue of Orient House is of such political complexity that the officials at the Prime Minister's Office could only tell us in reaction that the matter was being investigated.

Orient House has sent invitations to foreign ambassadors and consuls in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, calling on them to attend a reception marking the 7th anniversary of the declaration of the independence of the State of Palestine. Yasir 'Arafat declared the establishment of the State of Palestine in Tunis in 1988. The invitation states that the event is taking place under the auspices of his excellency, President 'Arafat. The invitation uses the English word President and not the Arabic term Ra'is, which was not translated into English or Hebrew in previous documents in an attempt to skirt certain problems relating to semantics.

Incidentally, the reception is due to take place tomorrow at 1600 [1400 GMT]. As far as we know, the event's sponsor, 'Arafat, does not intend to receive his guests personally.

The Foreign Ministry reported that several foreign ambassadors have already declared that they have no intention of accepting the invitation. [end recording]

PA Cancels Reception at Orient House

TA1511112595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has announced a partial commercial and school strike throughout the West Bank to mark Palestinian independence day. The reception for ambassadors and consuls, which was supposed to be held at Orient House in East Jerusalem and was announced on IDF Radio yesterday, has been canceled. Following a series of conversations that Foreign Ministry and prime minister's bureau staffers had with Yasir 'Arafat, the PA chairman decided to call off the event, which would have been embarrassing for Israel.

PA Takes Over Civil Administration in Janin

TA1211175795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian Authority [PA] team today took over the Civil Administration offices in the city of Janin. Another PA team toured the military government building in Janin in anticipation of the takeover tomorrow.

Al-Tarifi Views Janin Withdrawal, Peace Moves

NC1411074895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic
0610 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs with the Palestinian Authority, in Janin, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Tarifi] Thanks to the Voice of the Arabs and thanks for its continuing interest in the issues of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Jundi] Jamil al-Tarifi, how do you describe the situation in Janin now? Could you give our Arab listeners a picture of what is going on in the city?

[Al-Tarifi] I cannot really describe the sentiments of our people in Janin, as they have started to feel free now that the huge burden of occupation has come off their shoulders forever. Janin has been liberated; it is now a Palestinian city. I do not really have adequate words to describe this feeling. [passage omitted]

That was a Palestinian wedding, a Palestinian creative action proving to everybody, and to those who claimed that Gaza and Jericho would be the first and last, that Gaza and Jericho were first, Janin second, Tulkarm third, Nabulus fourth, and then Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron, up to the walls of Jerusalem, God willing.

[Al-Jundi] Al-Tarifi, after the Israeli pullout from Janin, there are hopes that this process will be completed—withdrawal from all the occupied territories including holy Jerusalem and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital. After taking this big step as part of the Taba agreement, do you sense that the Israelis are honestly and absolutely committed to the implementation of this agreement, especially after Rabin's departure and Peres' assumption of power as acting prime minister?

[Al-Tarifi] First, my dear brother, Rabin was killed because he signed the Palestinian-Israeli peace deal. In all the peace agreements he signed with the neighboring states, Rabin won the support of the Israelis—centrists, rightists, and leftists. But there is an extremist Israeli trend that grew up in Israeli settlements inside the Palestinian territories. Now this trend has turned against Israeli society to sabotage it, undermine it from within, and threaten its security. I believe the Israeli people and Government have come to know that as much as the international demonstration at Rabin's funeral reflected respect for this man, who had the courage to sign the peace agreement with the Palestinians, it was also an international expression of support for the peace process, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Hence, we know—and we received assurances from the transitional Israeli Government—that the peace process will continue. They are committed to what they signed. We hope this will continue until we reach the negotiations on the final status and establish our independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. We believe the Israeli withdrawal from Janin yesterday and the start of the implementation of this agreement will practically lead us to the independent Palestinian state and to the walls of holy Jerusalem, God willing. [passage omitted]

Shooting Spree in Nabulus Results in 4 Wounded

NC1411183895 Paris AFP in English
1706 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nabulus, West Bank, Nov 14 (AFP) — Armed Palestinians shot and wounded four residents in the West Bank town of Nabulus on Tuesday [14 November] in broad daylight, witnesses told AFP.

In the first shooting 50-year-old lawyer Husni Abu Rabah was bundled out of his office by a group of self-styled Fatah Hawks, the armed youth wing of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's main Fatah faction.

He was taken to the main square and shot twice in the left leg. As he tried to escape, the Hawks fired again hitting passer-by Husayn Usamh 'Ayyad, 21, in the chest, witnesses said. Both were taken to the al-Rafidiyah hospital where Abu Rabah was said to be in a comfortable condition and 'Ayyad was good.

In a separate shooting later Tuesday shopkeeper 'Abd-al-Karim Yarish, 62, received six bullets in both legs and the pelvis in an attack by Fatah Hawks in his shop in the Nabulus bazaar. His son Majdi, 24, was shot in right thigh. Both were taken to al-Rafidiyah hospital and were in a comfortable condition.

An armed gang of former Fatah Hawk members, that was active during the seven-year intifada or Palestinian uprising, has been ruling by the gun in Nabulus since May, killing at least two people and wounding at least 22.

They are led by Ahmad Tabuk, 26, and act as self-appointed custodians of moral standards, bullying video-game stores and lottery offices into closure. They roam the streets blaring out of loudspeakers the names of those they allege are thieves, pimps or drunkards.

Israeli Adherence to Redeployment Timetable Lauded

TA1411172295 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
10 Nov 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Positive Indications for Implementing the Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The news reports on Israeli intentions to implement the Taba agreement, specifically the process of redeploying Israeli forces in the West Bank, seem somewhat encouraging. The Israeli side has affirmed to the Palestinians its adherence to the timetable of withdrawal, according to which the Israeli forces will pull out from six West Bank towns by the end of this year.

Clearly, the measures and contacts aimed at initiating cooperation between the two sides on the nature of the Palestinian forces' entry into Janin are, for their part, moving in the right direction. This indicates that the Israeli forces' redeployment outside this town will not be postponed beyond its fixed date despite the unexpected circumstances stemming from last week's assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Undoubtfully, the resolve that the Israeli Government is showing to continue the peace process and confront a violent current of the radical right-wing opposition represents a positive step not only to the peace process, but also to a decisive showdown with the radical Israeli right wing. This wing considered itself the trustee of the region's future and tried to impose destructive patterns and ideas on this future — patterns and ideas that are very remote from peace, justice, and respect for peoples' rights. Furthermore, it resorted to methods of violence and assassination to impose these ideas on the Israelis themselves.

As long as Israeli society does not liberate itself from these groups which pull it backward and try to return it to the era of darkness and chaos that prevailed thousands of years ago, the fate of the region and its people, including the Israelis, will be threatened with the most serious disasters and dangers. Therefore, it is essential to renounce these radical groups and establish peace on firm and solid foundations that preserve the rights of the Palestinian people and ensure the region's security, stability, and prosperity.

Hamas Spokesman on Opposition to Israeli Rule

MS1411155695 Leeds PALESTINE TIMES in English Nov 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Ghawshah: Hamas will Not Participate In Council Elections; Nazzal: Hamas will Continue Resistance until Occupation Is Removed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London — Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, Spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, denied that Hamas intends to participate in the elections for the self-rule council due to be held next year. He told the PT [PALESTINE TIMES] that Hamas takes a firm stand in rejecting the Oslo agreements between the PLO and Israel. The elections for the council are one of the results of these agreements and a means to implement them, he said.

PLO Chairman Yasser 'Arafat told newsmen in Gaza last month, that Hamas decided to participate in the Palestinian elections and in all facets of the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Ghawshah described these elections as "fake" saying they will just result in a council of Israeli authority. "The elections are not legitimate because Palestinians outside the Occupied Territories will not be allowed to participate in them. Nor are they impartial or independent from the peace settlements which are imposed by Israel", Ghawshah said. The Hamas Spokesman stressed that the movement is committed to the political stand of its legislative institutions and will thus boycott these elections.

Hamas calls for legislative elections in which all Palestinians inside and outside the Occupied Territories can participate in to elect a new Palestinian leadership.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ghawshah said the Palestinian delegation that held talks with Hamas leaders in Khartoum last month represents nobody but itself. He added that the delegation came to mediate between the Hamas leadership and the Palestinian Authority. The delegation did not represent Hamas in the Gaza Strip, he said.

Mr. Ghawshah pointed out that Hamas agreed to have a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA] in response to-an invitation from the Sudanese leader Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. He reaffirmed that Hamas is committed to its policy of resisting the Israeli Occupation which has been the course of action of the Palestinian people for several decades. He added that resisting occupation is legitimate in all religious and civil laws. "Hamas by no means would abandon resisting the Israeli Occupation by every means possible," Ghawshah said.

On the other hand, the Hamas Spokesman denied that leaders of 'Izzil-al-Din al-Qassam Brigade, the military wing of Hamas, had meetings with the PA in Gaza. He added that the leadership of the "Brigade" is not made public and any claim of meetings between it and the PA is baseless.

Meanwhile, Mr. Muhammed Nazzal, a member of the Hamas Political Bureau denied that Hamas agreed in their meeting with the mediators in Khartoum to stop the military attacks on Israel, to take part in the elections for the self-rule council or to establish a political party. Such issues were not on the agenda of that meeting, Mr. Nazzal stated. He added that it is unlikely that Hamas would change into a political party. "Hamas emerged to resist the Israeli occupation and it will continue this basic mission until the occupation is removed", he said.

However, Mr. Nazzal said that the establishment of a political party in the self-rule areas does not mean the dissolution of Hamas. He pointed out that if such party is formed, it will include independent Islamists as well as activists from Hamas. Hamas passed a resolution allowing its members to join this party when established, he said.

Hamas Figure Remarks on Elections, Cairo Talks

MM1411122595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Husayn Hijazi: "A Hamas Leader Says: Party To Decide on Participation in Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, a leading figure in the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), has denied in a statement to AL-HAYAH in Gaza any knowledge of a decision by the movement to participate in the Palestinian elections scheduled to be held next January. Especially if these elections are going to be based on the Oslo agreement, as he said. He said that al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority, should be asked what grounds he had for saying that the movement will participate in the elections.

He said: "It is better for al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim to say that so-and-so said it or that a statement was issued by so-and-so in order to clarify the picture to the people. Because Hamas is committed to its statements, namely that it will not participate in the elections as long as they are based on the Oslo agreement."

However, Shaykh Bahr, who disclosed in his statement to AL-HAYAH that the process of forming a political party for Hamas is about to be completed, did not deny the possibility of this party entering the elections. He said: "Such participation is up to the party, which will be able to make a decision on it." He added that the party will have no link with Hamas, and it "will have a general national and Islamic orientation."

In what appeared to be a clear indication of Hamas' not objecting to the dialogue with the Palestinian Authority being conducted in Cairo instead of Khartoum, Bahr said that his movement "is not interested in the venue for the dialogue, but, rather, the substance and aim of the dialogue, which should serve the process of building and uniting Palestinian society." He disclosed that the Hamas delegation has been formed and is willing to travel to Cairo if it receives an official invitation to initiate this dialogue. [passage omitted]

Prospects for Hamas-'Arafat Agreement Viewed

MS1411152795 Leeds PALESTINE TIMES in English Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Debates Its Next Move"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Occupied Palestine — There are preponderant signs as of late indicating that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is seriously studying the political feasibility of a number of choices for a landmark agreement with Yasir 'Arafat's Palestine Authority [PA].

The decision is not going to be an easy one, and a meticulous examination of the pros and cons and every course of action is likely to precede any formal declaration of an agreement between the two erstwhile antagonists.

However, it is amply safe to surmise, given the recent statements by PA and Hamas leaders, that Hamas is finally intent or reaching a sort of a stable formula for an honourable, genuine and politically viable modus vivendi with the PA, and also with the self-imposing fait accompli of the autonomy scheme, however seemingly repugnant and discordant with the Islamist movement's ideological tenents it may be.

This is not to say that the Islamists are suddenly jumping out of their skins to embrace the Oslo and Taba accords, or that they have abandoned their maximalistic religious ideology and irredentist Palestinian outlook which considers Palestine an exclusively Muslim land and Israel as merely a passing historical anomaly; nor are the Islamists about to change their fundamental perception of the autonomy scheme, e.g. that it is basically futile and that it will not withstand the test of time.

It seems, though, that the Islamists are learning to draw a fine line of distinction between long-term strategic goals on the one hand, and the urgent need to deal with the existing hard realities on the ground which if continued to be ignored, could seriously undermine the Islamist cause, and the Islamists' ability to play an influential role in Palestinian politics.

Thus, the movement has begun to employ a comparatively conciliatory phraseology visa-vis the PA (but not Israel) implying that Hamas has finally come to terms with the Palestine Authority as a fact of life.

This tactical but significant metamorphosis in Hamas political thinking was easily noticed in the statements of Mahmud al-Zahar, who was recently released from PA detention. The chief spokesman of Hamas in Gaza reportedly said that there was no alternative to dialogue between Hamas and the PA and that Hamas appreciated "the constructive efforts carried out by our brothers in the PA."

Hamas, which so far has spoken in monolithic tone despite some discordant utterances from some of its more hawkish leaders, is undoubtedly inclined to reach and "equitable agreement" with the PA that would keep its basic uncompromising anti-Israeli attitude intact, in form and especially in substance, while at the same time provide the movement with a "high-profile legitimacy" in the Palestinian political arena.

Palestinian Islamist sources have intimated that a solemn declaration of an Islamist party will most probably precede of at least coincide with any decision by Hamas to take part in the election. Notwithstanding, the would-be party is not likely to subplant or overshadow Hamas as socio-religious movement, which is what Hamas is all about, despite its more publicised political manifestations.

Many factors have ostensibly contributed to the turnabout in Hamas present political thinking. Hamas sages and political thinkers must have reasoned that the movement will have more to gain than to lose by taking part in the election. The election, judge the Islamists, will provide Hamas with legitimate and public tribunes from which the Islamist camp can voice its social and political views freely and more effectively without having to risk reprisal or incarceration by the PA.

In fact, a decision to go for the election on the part of Hamas is likely to prove an asset rather than a liability for the Palestinian Islamist opposition, lead and dominated by Hamas. There are tens of thousands of potential supporters who would almost certainly give their votes to Hamas regardless to the movement's political platform. Indeed, support for Hamas among the bulk of its actual and potential supporters doesn't stem for their infatuation with the movement' s geopolitical designs, e.g. that Palestine from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean must revert now to Arab-Islamic sovereignty. A more authentic an powerful element contributing to Hamas popularity is simply its Islamist outlook which draws most of the religious sector among Palestinians.

Moreover, reconciliation with the PA not only will stifle relentless Israeli endeavours to get the two entities entangled in a futile and bloody-Palestinian civil war from which only Israel stands to benefit, but will also enhance the overall Palestinian ability to wrest more on the usurped Palestinian rights from Israel.

Now, will Hamas be able to achieve an acceptable agreement with the PA without risking the alienation of at least some segments of its grass-root supporters inside and outside the occupied territories. The answer is not outright yes or no, as much will depend on the way the agreement is presented to the Palestinian public, especially the Islamist camp.

If the expected agreement is projected as constituting a form of ideological apostasy on Hamas' part and a humiliating succumbing to PA bullying and vicarious Israeli pressure, then the Islamist camp will undoubtedly experience a period of turmoil and disunity which could evolve into some sort of disintegration. On the other hand, if Hamas succeeds in selling the agreement with Yasir 'Arafat as a necessary precedence to the looming struggle over, say Jerusalem, in which the cessation of armed resistance against Israel is wilful, tactical and tentative in nature, the reaction of most Islamists would likely be positive.

Undoubtedly, Hamas will strive to adopt the second course. How that will be pursued, is a matter for the few coming weeks to unravel.

Hamas Expresses Concern Over Abu-Marzuq's Health

MS1411154595 Leeds PALESTINE TIMES in English Nov 95 pp 1,5

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Marzuq's health In Danger, Racist Judge Takes Charge In Case"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington — The family of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chairman of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said he is being ill-treated in a New York prison and his health has deteriorated. They also say that prison officials — refuse to provide him with the medications necessary for the diabetes he suffers from which led to a worsening of his health condition. Abu-Marzuq has lost — about 15 kilos since his arrest by US Immigration authorities on July 25, 1995.

Abu-Marzuq's lawyer, Stanley Cohen, told the PT [PALESTINE TIMES] that he requested the court to allow a medical team to examine Abu-Marzuq. He added that his health deteriorated because of increased diabetes caused by the food given to him which is not suitable for diabetics. The lawyer said that the last time he met Abu-Marzuq, he looked thin and pale. Prison authorities did not allow Abu-Marzuq to carry a copy of the Holy Koran during his rest period, the lawyer said.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that it (Hamas) is anxiously observing the poor health situation of Abu-Marzuq which is due to the non-availability of proper medical care and a strict diet needed for a diabetic causing him to suffer a severe loss of weight. Hamas added that the US Administration is responsible for Dr. Abu-Marzuq's life.

According to the ruling by the American court, the Israeli government was asked to introduce within 60 days which ended n on the 10th of last month, a bill of indictment against Abu-Marzuq before reviewing the request to extradite him to Israel. The Israeli government introduced a bill of 1000 pages just two days before the end of that period. The bill included all testimonies that could be collected from Israeli interrogators who questioned Hamas supporters and who under torture, made some confessions about Abu-Marzuq. The bill also included a detailed narration about all military attacks carried out by Hamas or the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigade in the last five years.

Commenting on the Israeli bill of indictment, Mr. Ibrahim Ghowshah, the Hamas Spokesman said that the Israeli government tried hopelessly to link Abu-Marzuq's name with all military attacks carried out by Hamas or the "Brigades" against the Israeli occupation. He added that many testimonies were extracted from Palestinian prisoners under physical and mental torture using methods banned under international law. On the other hand, Mr. Cohen added that the bill submitted by Israel was very weak and did not include any solid evidence of any direct or indirect involvement by his client in the alleged attacks . He added that the bill shows that Abu-Marzuq is a political activist which is not considered a crime in the United States.

The lawyer said that the new judge appointed to review Abu-Marzuq's case, Kethen Dovy, is a racist. He added that he is the same judge who last month sentenced Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and three other Muslims who were alleged to have participated in the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York. Cohen requested to have another judge presiding over the case, but he did not expect to have his request met.

On the other hand, a committee set up in the United States including a number of prominent Muslim and Arab figures to follow up the case, agreed with Abu-Marzuq's family to appoint a famous law firm in Washington to defend him in the light of the latest developments in the case. Committee sources said that the present lawyer, Stanley Cohen is particularly specialised in immigration cases while the new firm has a long experience in extradition cases.

The committee pointed out that there are several legal gaps in the Israeli extradition request which may boost the defence's case against it and which makes the extradition contradict the US-Israeli extradition treaty.

Meanwhile, sources close to Hamas said that Hamas had commissioned the Jordanian lawyer, Anis al-Qasim, to follow up and study the case. They added that al-Qasim flew to New York and met with the Arab committee, Abu-Marzuq's family and Cohen in order to study the case and help in the defence Abu-Marzuq.

PFLP-GC Spokesman Cited on Israeli Raids, Casualties

JN1311185595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Statement by a military spokesman of the PFLP-GC; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the killing of the Nazi and fascist Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist enemy, under the leadership of Peres, wants to end the period of mourning by sending a message to the Zionists that the Zionist entity's policy of killing and barbarism will continue by targeting our people and terrifying the peaceful population.

Thus, Shim'on Peres continues the policy of his dead predecessor by presenting his credentials to the Zionists; namely, launching air raids against civilians in al-Damur and al-Na'imah.

At 1250 today, a squadron of enemy war planes and a number of helicopters raided social and humanitarian positions belonging to the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] in the al-Na'imah and al-Damur areas. A warship was sighted at sea from which Zionist helicopters took off during the successive raids for protection and reconnaissance purposes. A Hawk Eye spy plane also flew over the region to photograph the target areas and guide the hostile planes. The raiding Zionist planes fired dozens of missiles and dropped heavy shells, some of them timed, which later began to explode one after the other on the ground.

The PFLP-GC military spokesman added: Twenty-one air raids were counted by 1440. At 1745, a hostile squadron carried out night raids against the same positions with the participation of helicopters from a carrier at sea. The planes bombed the same social and humanitarian positions using remote controlled, 1500-pound missiles. Ground resistance confronted the planes.

As a result of the savage Zionist raids, two members of the crew of the medical and social affairs center were killed and five people who happened to be in the area during the attack, were injured.

The PFLP-GC military spokesman further said: We in the PFLP-GC consider this fresh Zionist attack a continuation of the same savagery and an attempt to continue the oppression of our people, a policy begun by Rabin, and which Peres is now continuing, armed by the cover given to him by the defeatist Arab rulers and the traitors of our people, the petty agents, who are crouching in the Gaza- Jericho protectorate.

The spokesman concluded by saying: We pledge to our people and nation that we will continue to stick to our rifles and jihad in solidarity with the national and Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon and by relying on the firmness of the Syrian stand in the face of plots targeting our people and nation. It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

The savage Zionist raids on the PFLP-GC positions have continued. More than 29 raids have been launched.

PFLP, PFLP-GC Criticize Newspaper Allegations

JN1111212395 (Clandestine) al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] issued a statement in which it said: As part of its campaign to confuse the stands of the opposition forces, edition No. 82 of the AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH newspaper published a report in which it alleged that cadres from the PFLP, the People's Party, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have agreed to form a party and that they have held contacts with 'Arafat's authority to obtain a license.

The PFLP clarified that as usual, the newspaper did not mention the sources of its information. This, it said, will strip the newspaper of its credibility and its journalistic integrity. The PFLP warned our masses and the members and cadres of the democratic forces of attempts by the authority's newspapers to sow the seeds of doubt and to spread confusion in the ranks of the opposition forces with the aim of weakening their internal unity.

A media spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] also commented on AL-HARAH's report on a statement by dissidents of the PFLP-GC. The spokesman said that these dissidents are the followers of 'Arafat, who has long tried to hint that everybody is rallying around him and his march. The information spokesman also said that the PFLP-GC is eager to assert that a limited number of these dissidents were among its ranks until recently, that they did not bear austerity, that they left for where there is money, and that the most of them have never been in the ranks of the PFLP-GC.

Alliance of Opposition Factions To Boycott Elections

JN1311120595 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 13 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Yusuf Abu-Bakr in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources here have said that leaders of the alliance of 10 Palestinian factions held a lengthy meeting yesterday to discuss important political issues. The most prominent of these was the issue of elections in the self-rule areas, which the 10 factions that oppose a peaceful settlement are expected to boycott.

The sources said that a long dialogue took place in the meeting, which was attended by Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah, new secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement. This dialogue focused on the stand adopted by Hamas [Islamic Jihad Movement], which plans to form a political party that might take part in these elections, and the one adopted by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which received a letter from its cadres in Gaza asking for permission to take part in the elections. The PFLP's Political Bureau plans to hold an emergency meeting in the near future to discuss this difficult and sensitive issue, knowing that half of the PFLP Central Committee members reside inside the occupied territories while the other half is abroad.

The Palestinian sources added that the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine recently concluded a meeting that dealt with the elections. During the meeting an agreement was reached to urge citizens and members of opposition groups to register for the elections in preparation for boycotting the voting process. This is expected to show the size of popular boycott of these elections.

Opposition Alliance Leaders Take Part in Rally

JN1211193395 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Masses of the al-Yarmuk Camp, south of Damascus, today marched to express support and joy on the silver jubilee of the glorious Corrective Movement, launched by President Hafiz al-Asad. The march was organized under the slogan, the banner of the Corrective Movement shall remain in the hearts, vibrant all the time, to safeguard the freedom of man and the dignity of the homeland.

Leading the massive march were a number of the leaders of the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces; members of the National and Regional Commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; 'Isam al-Qadi, member of the National

Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and regional secretary of the Palestinian Organization of the Ba'th Party; Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; Abu-Nidal al-Ashqar, secretary of the Palestine Liberation Front, Abu-'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Abu-Layla [Qays al-Samarra'i], member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; 'Adli al-Khatib, alias Abu-Fakhir, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement; Abu- al-'Abd 'Isam, member of the command of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; and Ratib Shihab, secretary of the al-Yarmuk Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Our correspondent in Damascus said delegations representing Palestinian popular organizations took part in the massive rally, alongside a large crowd of our Palestinian and Syrian Arab people.

At the end of the march, Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, delivered a speech on behalf of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces. In his speech, Talal Naji said the participation of the masses of our Palestinian people in the celebrations of the glorious Corrective Movement expresses love and loyalty to Syria's leader, party, and people. He added: Syria is an invulnerable bulwark in the face of conspiracies and attempts to peddle a liquidatory scheme that targets the central issue of the Arab nation.

Talal Naji added: 'Arafat and those with him do not represent our Palestinian people; they sold out. They relinquished the blood of the martyrs, the great sacrifices, and the rights of our people and nation.

Talal Naji added: While Arab Syria embraced the Palestinian people, its revolution, and struggling leadership and rejected surrender and concessions, some Arab officials rushed to the Zionist entity to take part in burying the terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin, whom they characterized as a brother, friend, and a hero of peace. They are in tears over his death, forgetting that he is a war criminal and one of the Zionist leaders who uprooted and displaced our people and committed massacres against them. Our people, however, in alliance with Syria and the free men of the nation, will not forgive the enemies and those who surrendered and will liberate their land and man in spite of the conspiracy.

Talal Naji added: President Hafiz al-Asad now symbolizes the Arab nation's dignity, honor, strength, and pride under the current difficult and bad circumstances. This great Arab leader has stood as a solid rock in the face of capitulation and submission. How can this not be the case when he advocates the liberation of Palestine before the Golan?

Talal Naji went on: The world today judges the character of people in terms of how much they cry for the killer Rabin. Generally, we do not rejoice at the death of anyone. However, who was the one who rejoiced? A few days before Rabin's murder, struggler Fathi al-Shaqaqi was martyred. The dead terrorist, Rabin, said then that he was happy about al-Shaqaqi's assassination. The so-called health minister in the Zionist entity said the government of his artificial entity had assassinated al-Shaqaqi. Yes, they are the ones who rejoice at death; they are the killers. The killer has become a hero of peace in this terrible age of hypocrisy and deceit. But we tell those who went to Jerusalem yesterday: 'Arafat does not represent the ambitions of the Palestinian people, nor does he represent them. You do not represent this great nation. We will not rest until all the land is liberated and the Zionist invaders are defeated, along with the conspirators and capitulationists.

Ratib Shihab, secretary of the al-Yarmuk Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, also spoke at the conclusion of the march. He said the banner of the Corrective Movement shall continue to shine in the hearts to bolster the freedom of man and the dignity of the homeland. He added: This immortal anniversary coincides with a great deal of plotting and games by small, deviant people who relinquished man and land.

Shihab said all these plots were defeated, thanks to the steadfastness of Syria, its leader and people. The games of deviant people shall be defeated and their cards shall be exposed to the Arab masses.

The masses sent a cable of loyalty to President Hafiz al-Asad in which they pledged to pursue the road of sacrifices, dedication, and steadfastness until the achievement of of our Arab nation's objectives of freedom, dignity, and unity.

Algeria

HAMAS Presidential Candidate Nahnah Interviewed

BR1411161595 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 14 Nov 95 p 5

[Interview with HAMAS leader Mahfoud Nahnah by Arezki Ait-Larbi in Algiers; date not given: "Interview With Mahfoud Nahnah, Well-Known Moderate Islamist and Presidential Candidate: 'Terrorism Is Condemnable, Whatever Its Target'" — first paragraph is LA LIBRE BELGIQUE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] President Mahfoud Nahnah, famous moderate Islamist, is one of the four candidates for the Algerian presidential elections to be held on Thursday [16 November]. A recent poll showed he would gain more votes than the most-favored candidate, current President Zeroual. His election platform is different from his party's. We asked him whether this is an evolution or a maneuver?

[Ait-Larbi] What is the difference between your party, Hamas, and the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Nahnah] I believe that this question has been overtaken by events. Our approach, calling for a pluralist unambiguous democracy, for modesty, and for tolerance, has proven to be the right one.

Give Real Hope

[Ait-Larbi] Are citizens today more receptive to the Islamic reasoning after the experience of the FIS and its armed militias?

[Nahnah] They are receptive to ideas that give them real hope of getting out of this crisis, through a real and calm reconciliation, uniting all the Algerians through their representatives. They are receptive to ideas that assure their security without engaging them in other confrontations. An idea that unites instead of one that exacerbates the differences. It is this idea that we are presenting to them time and again.

[Ait-Larbi] Lately you have been making many references to a "pluralist democracy" and a "republican order." Have you renounced the "project for an Islamic state?"

[Nahnah] Our project was and will remain the building up of the Algerian state, free and democratic, within a framework of Islamic values. A rule-of-law state where the independence of the institutions and of the powers is guaranteed. This state cannot but be republican and democratic with the people's voice as the sole source of legitimacy, and legal and pacifist pluralism as the sole means of expressing its political diversity.

[Ait-Larbi] What is your opinion on the terrorism practiced by the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] in Europe?

[Nahnah] Terrorism is condemnable whatever its source or its target. We have already warned of the risks of its excesses if we do not engage in efforts to contain it. Anyhow, I insist on the necessity of not amalgamating Algeria with Islam and with violence. One must make a clear distinction between these things because terrorism and extremism are not specifically Islamic deviations. Besides, the Islamic principles of respect for human life and of hospitality lead us to fiercely condemn this kind of action against foreigners or Europeans.

Democracy and Islam

[Ait-Larbi] What is in your eyes a "real Islamic state?"

[Nahnah] A state that guarantees individual and collective liberties, justice, and equality at all levels. It is a state where democracy guarantees freedom of speech to everyone. And it is a state that acts in concurrence with the Islamic precepts, a message of peace and justice. It also guarantees human rights and equality between men and women.

[Ait-Larbi] So what do you think of polygamy?

[Nahnah] It is a exceptional provision of the Koran to fulfill particular needs, that will gradually disappear as society evolves. Without forgetting, however, that it is a matter of personal liberty!

Nahnah Discusses Platform

MM1511122095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 95 p 6

[Telephone interview with HAMAS leader Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, in Algiers, by 'Abdallah al-Hajj, in Jeddah; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Hajj] Why did your presidential election candidacy cause a rift in the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] ranks?

[Nahnah] I put forward my presidential election candidacy out of my keenness to end the crisis and offer an alternative to the political system which has led the country to the state of decline that the people are enduring. We were able to collect signatures from people belonging to various social classes and political affiliations. We found FIS elements to be supportive, although some of them are still not convinced that the government is serious about holding fair elections. As far as we are concerned, we are keen that there should be a genuine contest, and hope that the people will be able to choose freely and democratically.

[Al-Hajj] Is it true that most FIS members in Algeria support you, and that those who are abroad are against you?

[Nahnah] We have found enormous popular support in the governorates and cities which we visited (35 out 48 provinces), and this has encouraged us to proceed with the contest in order to fulfill the people's will and yearning for change. That is why we have chosen the slogan "a solution today, before tomorrow". I am not a candidate representing HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] or the Islamists. I represent the people who gave me their valuable trust in the form of signatures, support and backing.

[Al-Hajj] The National Covenant parties are preparing to hold a meeting after the presidential elections. Do you think that they intend to put obstacles in the way of the next presidency?

[Nahnah] The presence of the opposition is a sign of democracy, and every party is free to take any position. It is important, however, to make a distinction between the party and the homeland, between the government and the state, and between intransigence and opposition.

[Al-Hajj] There are some direct accusations that the HAMAS leader is receiving support and backing from France and the United States to help him secure the first or second post in the Algerian Government. What are your comments?

[Nahnah] If that is what is being rumored, there are other rumors too that France, the United States, and others will not accept an Islamist ruling Algeria. As far as I am concerned, they are only rumors, of no consequence. There many more, such as what the people are being told, namely that if you were to elect Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, there would be a repeat of the January 1992 scenario, and it would be best if you do not elect him. The important thing is to have the trust of the Algerian people, who aspire to a safe and stable future.

[Al-Hajj] How do you envisage the economic reform program for Algeria after the forthcoming elections?

[Nahnah] My economic program is based on achieving a fair distribution of the country's wealth, promoting the development of cooperation, integration, and partnership in local, regional, and international relations, respect for economic freedom and personal initiative, freeing market forces, widening the private sector's economic base by giving priority to the production sector for generating job opportunities, combating unemployment and illicit gain, and using Islamic precepts in financial operations.

[Al-Hajj] The Arab League is participating in the supervision of the Algerian elections. Do you think that there is Arab support for your candidacy or even for President Zeroual's return to the presidency?

[Nahnah] I was keen to express my views on the way to resolve the Algerian crisis and how to run the affairs of the state to every politician, diplomat, and media person with whom I have met, be they Arabs, Muslims, or foreigners. I see the Algerian presidential election as the first pluralist experiment in the Arab world and in many Muslim states, and as such it will have positive repercussions on democracy. This experiment will have to be carried out fully so that it is fruitful and achieves cohesion between the peoples and their rulers after decades of division, discord, and conflict.

[Al-Hajj] Do you not think that the escalation of armed violence, just days before the elections, will make it difficult to attract a reasonable voters' turnout at the elections?

[Nahnah] The people, more than anyone else, are aware of the danger of violence and retaliation, and therefore of the need to hold free and fair presidential elections. The question on every Algerian citizen's mind is whether we can have genuine elections. We believe that we have the opportunity to fulfill the people's desire for change and to resolve the crisis. Should anything happen to reduce the popular turnout, the blame will fall on the government, because it is responsible for organizing the elections and providing suitable security conditions for them.

[Al-Hajj] What would be your first decision if you are elected president?

[Nahnah] My first decision, God willing, would be to hold a serious dialogue without excluding or marginalizing anyone in order to achieve national reconciliation and a political detente, to enable all political forces to work legally, to hold legislative and local elections. First, we would form a national reconciliation government, and afterwards we would deal with the economic and social affairs in order to rid the Algerian people, who aspire to a decent and just life, of injustice and hardship.

Three Party Leaders Call For Election Boycott

LD1411184395 Paris Radio France Internationale in French 1730 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Germany, police today prevented the president of the executive body of the FIS

[Islamic Salvation Front] abroad from holding a media conference. Rabah Kebir was able to appear in public in Bonn, but he was not allowed to take the floor. Adala Benraad reports:

[Begin Benraad recording] Police officers in plain clothes intercepted Rabah Kebir shortly before he entered the Bonn restaurant where the media conference was supposed to be held. The police came to remind him that any political statement from him will jeopardize the asylum Germany has been granting him.

According to German sources, he has already been fined 35,000 French francs this year for not complying with the reserve he is supposed to observe.

Hocine Ait Ahmed, the leader of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], who was himself banned from addressing the press in Paris last month, protested against the intervention of the German police. This did not prevent him from holding the media conference together with a member of the executive body of the FIS abroad in Brussels, as well as with Louisa Hannoun, the leader of the Workers' Workers' Socialist Organization, an Algerian far-left-wing party. Hocine Ait Ahmed read an appeal issued by the signatories of the Rome Platform. He repeated their call for a boycott of the Algerian presidential elections that they present, I quote, as a blatant farce taking place against the background of a tragedy.

Finally, it should be noted that there was no representative for the FLN [National Liberation Front] at the media conference. [end recording]

Prime Minister Receives International Observers

LD1411222495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The heads of the delegations of international observers, who have been in our country for the past few days in the framework of their mission to monitor the presidential elections, today met the prime minister in his capacity as chairman of the government commission on the presidential elections. These delegations include the former Malian president, Mr Amadou Toumani Toure, who is heading the delegation of OAU observers.

[Unidentified correspondent] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi received at the Government Palace this evening the heads of the delegations of observers. They are the head of the OAU delegation, Mr Amadou Toumani Toure; the head of the Arab League delegation, Mr Ali Abd al-Karim; and the head of the UN delegation, Mr Husayn al-Kamil. The heads of the delegations of observers met Mr Mokdad Sifi in his capacity as chairman of the government commission in charge of preparing the elections. They also met the members of the aforementioned government commission. [passage omitted]

On this meeting, the heads of the UN and Arab League delegations had this to say:

[Begin al-Kamil recording] As far as the UN delegation is concerned, it carried out all its mission yesterday and today and completed everything relating to the elections regarding the army and police. The members, who have been divided, are now ready to go tomorrow to all the places to which they have been assigned, including the capital. God willing we will carry out our work until the voting is over and the ballots are counted. [end recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] What did you discuss with the chairman of the government commission?

[Begin al-Karim recording] The meeting with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi was a good meeting during which we found an eagerness and an emphasis on all the matters which would facilitate the mission of the international observers in the areas where they will be. He was frank in his talks with us and in his replies to all the questions we put to him. As regards the numerous questions we asked about the election process, he stressed the need to offer the facilities which will enable the observers [to carry out their mission]. He also expressed his readiness to give any information we ask for. [end recording]

Publication of Francophone Newspaper Banned

LD1411160895 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian authorities have again seized the Francophone weekly [as heard] newspaper 'La Nation' and banned it from publication. It is the third time within a month that this has happened, according to the newspaper's editors, who still do not understand the reasons behind the decision.

Bomb Explosion in Kabylie Region; 3 Killed

NC1411194095 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nov 14 (AFP) — A car bomb exploded Tuesday [14 November] outside a police station in the Kabylie region of Algeria, killing three people and wounding seven, witnesses said.

The bomb went off in the town of Souk el Tenine, the witnesses said.

Egypt

Musa Discusses Damascus Visit, al-Asad Meeting

NC1411184795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening after a brief visit to Damascus. He was received by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and delivered a message to him from President Husni Mubarak. The foreign minister also held extended talks with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'.

Upon his return to Cairo, 'Amr Musa said he will deliver a message to President Mubarak from President al-Asad and submit a detailed report on his talks with the Syrian president and foreign minister.

Musa added that he listened to President Hafiz al-Asad's analysis of the current situation in the region and the peace process.

The foreign minister added that President al-Asad affirmed that Syria wishes to press ahead with the peace process in line with the Madrid agreement and the firm Syrian principles on peace.

Musa said that his talks in Damascus also dealt with conditions in the Arab world. He noted that today's talks were part of the ongoing consultation between the two countries over regional and Arab issues and the peace operation.

The foreign minister explained that he talked to the Syrian president about the peace process on the Palestinian track, which is forging ahead. He briefed him on Egypt's views on the Middle East situation.

'Amr Musa said that the talks also touched on the Barcelona conference for cooperation in the Mediterranean which will be held in mid-December. He said that the talks emphasized the importance of intra-Mediterrean cooperation.

Musa's Comments on Peace Process, Rabin Reported

NC1411132995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Acting Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has praised President Husni Mubarak's role in the peace process.

In statements to CNN today, in which Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also participated, Peres said that President Mubarak is contributing a great deal to the peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis. He noted too that he very much appreciated President Mubarak's participation in Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told CNN: We all realize the difficult mission before Shim'on Peres. But we trust his competence and trust that the peace process will continue.

On the extent of Egyptian youths' enthusiasm for peace, Musa said: It was the late President Anwar al-Sadat who began the peace march and launched the peace initiative. It is, thus, an Egyptian initiative. I believe everyone in Egypt is enthusiastic about the peace process. We will reach peace based on understanding; this is what we are following up and working for.

Musa said he was glad that the implementation of the Oslo-2 agreement has begun and that the Israelis have withdrawn from Janin. This will make the people of the occupied territories feel there is change, and it will lend credibility to the agreement and to the peace process, he said. This will help us from now until we reach a settlement, he added.

Musa described the latest talks between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat as fruitful, especially that they were held against the positive background of the completion of the Israeli pullout from Janin.

Reacting to Peres' remark that peace with Syria is moving at a slow pace and that Israel and Syria are behaving as strangers, Musa said: At some stage, we were all strangers to each other. But they are no longer strangers. They sat together at certain levels in Washington. We remember that after the Madrid conference was launched, there were four negotiating tracks followed by direct negotiations between Syria and Israel.

He added: The United States is playing its role and we are playing ours. The issue here is not being strangers or not, but how to bring them closer; each must take steps toward the other.

On Peres' remark that the final settlement will be achieved in five years, the foreign minister said he agrees with Peres. He noted that the Palestinians and the Israelis set 1999 as the year for completing their final settlement. I think the same can be achieved with the Syrians and the Lebanese, he said.

On extremism, which took Rabin's life and President al-Sadat's before that, 'Amr Musa said: What matters now is that we face our problems with courage and determination. Since we support and back peace, we have to stay on this road until the end. When we start an economic reform process, we have to complete it until the end. You cannot avoid the occasional appearance of terrorists. We hope they will be defeated and never achieve their objectives.

Asked whether Shim'on Peres would make a good leader, Musa said: I think he is indeed a good leader and will be a good leader. He understands the corridors of Israeli policy and the details of the peace process. I think he will be a good prime minister and an extremely effective leader in the peace process. Musa said he expected Peres to lead Israel through the peace process with pleasant surprises.

About his acquaintance with late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Musa said: I dealt with him several times. He was a clever man and knew what he wanted. He was fully committed to peace. He left the arena before his time. But we hope that Peres will continue the process and achieve the objective.

On the effects of Rabin's assassination, Musa said: Rabin's demise has an effect. The appearance of this violent and extremist movement in Israel has increased tension in the region.

Regarding the attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that it targeted stability and peace in the region and was against Egypt's positions in favor of peace, economic progress, and stability in the region. He added that extremism and terrorism have become a global phenomena and not merely limited to the Middle East or Egypt.

Regarding Iran's stand on the peace process, 'Amr Musa said: It should be understood that the peace process aims to establish comprehensive peace in the Middle East so that we can tackle the other problems. He noted that no country can be excluded from the overall optimism for peace and that peace will one day prevail in the Middle East of which Iran is part.

Asked whether he is optimistic, he said that he is. He added: The peace process has reached the point of no return. There is only one way to this goal and that is peace. True, there has been reason for pessimism in the past, but now we are all convinced that we are committed to peace. The issue is one of details. The Palestinians will get their rights, there will be withdrawal from the Golan, and so on.

He stressed that the majority in this region has committed itself to peace as its goal. He noted that late President al-Sadat was the one who began the peace process and that it is now a matter of time before the others join the bandwagon.

Mubarak on 'Terrorism,' Peace, Ties With Romania

NC1411212395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1930 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has voiced regret for yesterday's explosion in the Saudi capital. Speaking at the beginning of a news conference held jointly with visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu this evening, President Mubarak hoped that this incident will not signal the beginning of a wave of violence in Saudi Arabia.

President Mubarak pointed out that terrorism is an international phenomenon which all countries must cooperate to fight. He referred to his repeated warnings to some European states which provide shelter to terrorists in their territories. President Mubarak referred to his recent meeting in Israel with acting Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. He pointed out that their discussion had focused on the need to reactivate the Syrian track and eliminate any obstacles obstructing it. President Mubarak also referred to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Syria today to discuss with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad what can be done to reactivate the Syrian track.

In response to a question about the upcoming People's Assembly elections, President Mubarak stressed that the government does not interfere in elections and that the legal regulations governing these elections prevent such intervention. He added that every citizen has a role to play to ensure free and fair elections.

Regarding Egypt's relations with Romania, President Mubarak said that these relations are excellent, particularly in the field of trade. Noting that trade between the two countries has reached more than $500 millions per year, he hoped that more opportunities for broadening bilateral cooperation will be found.

For his part, the Romanian president thanked President Mubarak and the Egyptian people for their hospitality. He expressed his desire to maintain the developing relations between the two countries.

Regarding the question of Bosnia, Iliescu stressed that there are new and positive prospects that call for optimism. He expressed his belief that war in Bosnia is over and praised the U.S. role in this regard.

Regarding Romania's role in the Middle East, the Romanian president said his country has always left its doors open to all parties of the peace process. His country, he added, is still in contact with the PLO, although it had come under pressure in the past to sever its ties with the PLO.

The Romanian president noted that both Egypt and Romania share the same interests and the same intentions. He added: The two countries have a great and long heritage of civilization, culture, and science. Both of us are eager to achieve stability in the region and in the world, serve development, rebuild our societies to be democratic, and make economic reforms until we reach a free market economy. He added: We have made sure that all the necessary elements for facilitating and consolidating our bilateral relations exist.

Asked about future cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of tourism, President Iliescu said: I was glad to see tangible evidence of this during my visit to the "Three Pyramids Hotel," which is a joint Egyptian-Romanian enterprise. He noted that the results achieved by the two sides are not bad, but it is only the beginning of bilateral cooperation. He stressed that Egypt and Romania possess considerable elements that enable them to consolidate their ties and promote the flow of tourists in both directions.

In his answer to the same question, President Mubarak noted that Romania participates in several projects in Egypt in various domains, not only in the tourism field.

Asked about his recent meeting with Shim'on Peres following the funeral of late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, President Mubarak said: We discussed the need to reactivate the Syrian track of the peace process, eliminate the obstacles in this regard, and provide flexibility to encourage the Syrian brothers, so that the peace process could get moving. He added: We did not get into any details during the meeting, because the time was not appropriate for this. He added: I have sent Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Damascus to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to explore the avenues that could help activate the Syrian track.

Asked about the prospects of settling the Bosnian conflict and the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina after the war ends, President Iliescu said: I believe there are positive signs. We must be optimistic.

Iliescu voiced appreciation for the U.S. Administration's support for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina and added that some positive signs are emerging from the three-way talks on the future of the country and also from the two parties involved in the conflict over Eastern Slavonia.

He noted that he has perceived some positive attitudes regarding developments in former Yugoslavia through the contacts that Romania maintains with the concerned parties and added that he recently chaired a meeting in Malta about this issue and during that meeting a clear wish was shown by all the concerned parties to solve this problem. Iliescu said a solution is very important.

The Romanian president declared that during the Malta meeting Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic pointed out that problems will arise from now on over the formulation of a final settlement, but noted that it is better to have such problems on the negotiating table than in the battlefield.

In connection with the elections to be held in Egypt this November and the next elections in Romania, Presidents Mubarak and Iliescu were asked about the guarantees that these elections will be free. President Mubarak answered that the Egyptian Government does not interfere in the elections which are supervised by a judicial commission. He noted that any problem that might arise will be among the candidates themselves because the government does not meddle at all in the elections.

The Romanian president said that there will be local elections in Romania next spring and parliamentary elections next autumn. He added that Romania has no problem with guarantees for free elections, noting that the previous 1992 elections were supervised by international observers. He declared: We have no problem in connection with the free participation of every Romanian citizen in the elections.

President Iliescu explained that his country has a multiparty system and that 90 political parties contested the earlier elections. He said that representatives from 14 political parties entered parliament. He explained that this proliferation of parties was a result of the former long rule of a one-party system in Romania and was a natural reaction by the Romanians who wanted to express their freedom. He said the same phenomenon can be observed with regard to press freedom, noting that Romania has more than 1,000 new newspapers.

In response to a question about the message he sent to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and whether there are new ideas for advancing the peace process, President Mubarak said: I do not have new proposals. The Syrian track talks are between Syria and Israel and if we are asked to mediate then we will try to help as much as we can. The United States is also helping in this.

President Mubarak expressed his belief that both the Syrian and Israeli parties want to reach a solution and peace. He added: There are some obstacles which the Syrians have told us about, but I believe that it is possible to resolve them.

In response to another question about his visit to Paris tomorrow, President Mubarak said: I am going to Paris to attend UNESCO's celebrations. I will also meet French President Jacques Chirac and I will discuss with him all the issues that interest us: the Middle East problem, contemporary issues of common interest, in addition to bilateral cooperation.

In reply to a question asking for his comment on the explosion that occurred in Riyadh yesterday, President Mubarak said: We regret that this happened in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He expressed hope that this will not be the start of a wave. He added: We do not know exactly what were the motives of the organization that carried out this action. This organization which had claimed responsibility might not even exist. The president went on to say: Terrorism is a global phenomenon. I have repeatedly said that all countries must cooperate in order to put an end to this phenomenon. But some states, including some European ones, continue to shelter some criminals under the slogan of political asylum. This is not true. These criminals have killed citizens in their countries and are creating problems for their countries. These states continue to give them shelter and this is a great danger. He added: I still say to them that if you do not lay down some rules for this situation, you will then pay a heavy price in future.

In response to a question on his country's role in the coming stage of the peace efforts in the region and in supporting the Palestinian Authority in the self-rule areas, Romanian President Iliescu said: Romania's resources are not that huge, but I am sure that every state can help strengthen peaceful relations in all the hot spots of the world. He added that his country's foreign policy has always been an objective one and that it has left its door open for all the concerned parties. He went on to say: We remember when Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin met late President Anwar al- Sadat on Romania's territory. We also remember that we were accused of maintaining our contact with the PLO after the revolution in Romania. Some sought to have our ties with the PLO severed so as to prove that there was democracy in Romania but the latter's stand was a good one on this issue.

The Romanian president added: I first met Mr. 'Arafat in 1956 when I was chairman of a student movement. Later 'Arafat became leader of the Fatah Movement and then PLO chairman. Now he is the recognized president of Palestine and the self-rule territories. I also had the opportunity to meet 'Arafat and Peres in Bucharest in 1994. A short while ago President Mubarak and I were in Jerusalem. Major changes are taking place in such a short time and for this reason we appreciate the positive role that Egypt plays in connection with this noteworthy issue.

Asked about cooperation between Egypt and Romania and whether it will involve the two countries' private and public sectors, President Mubarak replied: Cooperation between our two countries will be primarily between their private sectors, but this does not mean that the public sector will not play a part at all. It might play a role in huge projects that are beyond the private sector's resources.

President Mubarak reported that President Iliescu met today with many businessmen from both countries to give them encouragement to cooperate and embark on joint projects on sound foundations.

Commenting on this issue, the Romanian president said that the Egyptian capital has a share in more than 5,000 current projects in his country.

Nasirite Party Leader on Rabin's Assassination

NC1411165295 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic
6 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin, Diya'-al-Din Dawud, secretary general of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, has stated that although death is not an occasion for gloating, it is also not an occasion for turning murderers into martyrs. Death does not turn those whose hands have been stained with the blood of Arab martyrs for over 50 years into heroes. They remain criminals in this life and in the afterlife.

The murder of Rabin should not make us forget the hundreds of POW's who were unjustly killed or our martyrs in the wars imposed on us by Zionism, in which thousands of our martyrs lost their lives. The secretary general added: The murder of the Israeli enemy prime minister must not make us forget that he has taken part in all types of piracy, murder, and wars. In addition, he has obtained the Congress' decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist state on the usurped land of Palestine. Let there be no confusion; we must remember that thousands of martyrs have given their lives to defend their honor and land, although they were not mentioned in any official statement and no mourning was declared for them.

MENA Reports Diplomat Shot Dead in Geneva

NC1411142495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1405 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—An Egyptian diplomat was killed in Geneva last night. Unidentified gunmen shot him and fled.

A responsible security source said today that the Egyptian diplomat, 42-year-old 'Ala'-al-Din Nazmi, had been a trade counselor at the Egyptian Embassy in Switzerland since January 1994. He was shot as he was waiting in the parking lot at his residence in Geneva.

The source added that contacts are currently under way with Swiss security authorities to obtain information on the motives behind and implications of the incident.

Saudi Intelligence Chief Makes Surprise Visit

NC1411152295 Paris AFP in English 1040 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 14 (AFP) — The head of Saudi Arabia's intelligence services made a surprise visit to Egypt on Tuesday [14 November], a day after a car bomb attack in Riyadh killed six people at US military offices.

Egyptian officials would give no explanation for the visit of Prince Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz beyond the fact that it was unscheduled.

Egypt's President Husni Mubarak telephoned Saudi King Fahd shortly after the attack Monday to express his "sorrow," the official news agency MENA reported here.

The blast in the Saudi capital ripped through offices used by US military officials to train the Saudi national guard, killing five Americans and one Filipino.

An anonymous caller claiming to be from a previously unknown group called "Tigers of the Gulf" telephoned AFP to say his group had carried out the bombing to force US troops to leave Saudi Arabia.

Government Refusal of Election Supervision Denounced

NC1411201895 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 12

[From the "Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has rejected any international supervision of the elections. We have not protested although the government had taken part in supervising elections in several countries. International supervision is usually resorted to when a state wants to move from a totalitarian system to a democratic system and wants the world to see for itself this democratic change.

The government has also refused to give the guarantees demanded by the opposition so that we would not need international supervision. The government has refused to give any guarantees saying that nothing could be better than how things are now. The opposition has not demanded much more than full judicial supervision of the elections, neutrality of the head of state, and Mubarak's resignation from the National Democratic Party [NDP] so that the government bodies would not act to protect the candidates of the president in his capacity as the NDP leader.

Human rights and legal aid organizations and a number of acceptable public figures with good reputations have offered to supervise the elections and give aid and guidance to the voter and candidate. But, the government also rejected these interventions instead of welcoming and opening the doors for them. The government turned down this committee which volunteered to monitor and supervise the elections at its own expense.

This constant rejection causes concern because the government would not have rejected this help if it is sincerely interested in having free elections. Perhaps it has underhanded activities it wants to hide, such as rigging the elections. This is confirmed by the government stating that past elections were legitimate and even 100 percent honest. It believes that it can say this to the citizens which were absent from the 1984, 1987, and 1990 elections, all of which were confirmed to be unconstitutional or rigged by the judiciary.

The government might deceive us some of the time, but it cannot deceive us all the time. The result of the last election rigging is evident and clear because citizens did not vote. We accused the citizen of being negative because he did not participate in those elections. The fact is that it was a positive stand by the citizen's who refused to take part in elections known to be rigged.

The government's rejection of any guarantees, monitoring, or supervision means that it is cooking something and not telling what it is. The cooking smell will appear and the world will look at us as an undemocratic country whose parliament and establishments are illegal. This is a serious charge in the international community at present because democracy has started to manifest itself everywhere.

62 Student MB Members Arrested for Demonstrations

NC1411145995 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 14 (AFP) — Police have arrested 62 students accused of leading demonstrations calling for the overthrow of the Egyptian government, a judicial source said Tuesday [14 November].

"These demonstrations are part of actions by the banned Moslem Brotherhood [MB] aiming to incite the masses and overthrow the government in power," the source said.

The arrests were made over the past few days after demonstrations drew thousands of Moslem students at the universities of Cairo, Alexandria and al-Zaqaziq.

The demonstrators were protesting against the military court trial of 81 Brotherhood members as well as the ban on dozens of Moslem fundamentalist students wanting to run in university elections.

The 62 students are accused of having "30,000 pamphlets inciting hate against the government and for provoking their colleagues."

The Brotherhood, banned since 1954 but tolerated by the government as a religious organization since the 1970s, has accused the government of arresting scores of its members in a recent crackdown to prevent them from participating in legislative elections on November 29.

9 MB Members Remanded for 15 Days for Interrogation

NC1511051995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2144 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office today renewed the remand of nine members of the disbanded Muslim Brotherhood [MB] for another 15 days for further interrogation.

The security forces had arrested these suspects in Alexandria Governorate while they were distributing pamphlets advocating Muslim Brotherhood ideology and inciting the public against the country government system.

Al-Banna on Brotherhood's Election Prospects

MM1411161495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
14 Nov 95 p 5

[Interview with Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood group, by Muhammad Salah in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salah] Only a few days remain before the parliamentary elections. How do you assess the electoral atmosphere and the publicity for the candidates in general and those of the Islamic alliance in particular?

[Al-Banna] We all feel that there is total disregard for the principle of equal opportunity and that the government has violated the text of the Constitution, which says that all citizens are equal before the law. Opposition parties and forces in general and the Islamic tendency in particular are not being treated in the same way as the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP]. This was clear from the first day of the election campaign. The state allowed NDP candidates to present their registration documents early, before any of the other candidates. Throughout Egypt, NDP candidates were allocated the crescent and camel symbols, which were both used by the ruling party's candidates in the last elections, held under the list system and boycotted by the opposition parties and forces. At the same time, the government is insisting that the symbols are allocated to candidates in the order they register. The star symbol, used by alliance candidates in the 1986 elections, is No. 37. The palm tree symbol, used by the Wafd Party in the 1986 elections, is No. 95. The idea, of course, is that the alliance candidates are not given the same symbol countrywide, so that the voter cannot make the connection between the symbol and the Islamic alliance, and the same is true for the rest of the opposition parties. The ruling party candidates throughout Egypt were allocated the crescent and the camel symbols for candidates respectively for the workers' and other groups' seats. Each opposition candidate now has a different symbol from the others.

[Salah] But did the interior minister not issue a ruling to allow candidates to exchange their symbols?

[Al-Banna] This decision came after registration was closed. Consequently, a candidate can exchange the symbol allocated to him for another among the remaining symbols in his constituency, but cannot get a symbol which has been allocated to another candidate, making it impossible for Islamic alliance candidates, for example, to have the same symbol.

[Salah] Does the symbol issue validate the Islamic tendency's claim that the elections are being held in inappropriate circumstances?

[Al-Banna] The issue is bigger than the problem of symbols. Anyone walking the streets of the capital will find that public transport vehicles carry NDP candidates' advertisements. These are public utilities, belonging to the state and not to any individual or party. All the state's organs are working for the ruling party candidates and are being utilized by them, while pressures are applied on all organs participating in the electoral process so that they do not deal with opposition candidates or help them. For instance, many employees of suppliers, printing shops, and mills have been unable to deal with opposition candidates after receiving instructions to that effect, and they are all being very closely watched.

[Salah] You are a candidate at the forthcoming parliamentary elections for the al-Darb al-Ahmar district, and were arrested twice by the police and accused of leading a march with thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters. Was it a show of force?

[Al-Banna] At a time when congresses are being held for the ruling NDP candidates, meetings are arranged for them in marquees and youth centers, and marches are organized, opposition candidates, including myself, are deprived of that. According to the rules, I am not allowed to address a meeting in an open site. The government has decided that candidates are not allowed to set up marquees, and that electoral meetings can be held only in closed spaces and if a permit has been obtained — which is usually refused. This means that we are deprived of electoral publicity, and have resorted to posting banners with the candidate's name on lamp posts and facades. This is how the candidate advertises himself, just like any consumer goods. The voters should be given the opportunity to listen to candidates and learn their programs and ideas. There are excessive restrictions on the opposition. What happened in al-Darb al-Ahmar is that, as a candidate in the elections and facing the difficulties mentioned earlier, I began taking walks in the neighborhood to visit residents in the area, which is normal during an election campaign. Naturally, supporters would gather around me and some of them would chant slogans supporting my candidacy. Surprisingly, however, on both occasions the security forces arrested me with some residents and accused me of leading a march and obstructing traffic, when I had no intention whatever of leading a march or demonstration. It is normal to find gatherings during elections. The intention is to tighten the noose on the opposition and the Islamic tendency.

[Salah] Officials have stressed that the elections will be fair, and that there will be no cheating.

[Al-Banna] I spoke about the electoral atmosphere and the period preceding the vote, and I do not want to be pessimistic. Naturally, everyone hopes that the vote will take place in accordance with the laws and systems used in democratic states. However, past experience indicates that it is difficult to believe the Government's promises. I would like to mention that I discovered in a previous election's ballot box some ballot papers which had not been folded, and I asked the judge supervising the election committee how these large papers found their way inside the box through the small opening without being folded. Public interest in Egypt dictates that the government should be keen to hold fair elections which would reflect the genuine will of the people.

[Salah] How did the Islamic alliance's parties, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Labor Party [SLP], agree on the list of candidates?

[Al-Banna] Before the registration of candidates began, the government newspapers made intensive attacks on the Islamic alliance and said that there are strong disagreements between the two parties in the alliance, but those were false rumors. The list of candidates shows that there is a consensus and agreement between the Muslim Brotherhood and the SLP. No Muslim Brotherhood candidate will oppose an SLP member or vice versa. In general, I believe that the circumstances of the opposition parties and forces make them very keen to avoid infighting and division, not only between the Muslim Brotherhood and the SLP, but also among the other parties. The Wafd Party, for instance, has strongly opposed the amendments made last April to the penalties law, also known as the press law. This is a position on which all opposition parties and forces are in agreement. The attack on AL-WAFD Chief Editor Jamal Badawi was a warning that what happened to him could happen to any other oppositionist. And even though the government denied any involvement in the attack on Badawi, nobody is convinced that that is the case, and people are wondering why, so far, none of Badawi's attackers has been arrested. The opposition parties know full well that if one of them is deprived of rights, the rights of others will also be withdrawn in the future.

[Salah] But the Islamic alliance was unable to coordinate with the other opposition parties, to avoid conflicts between opposition candidates in specific districts.

[Al-Banna] There was, and still is, the desire to coordinate, but elections have their own special circumstances and considerations, and the choice of candidates is made on a personal, local, partisan, and political basis.

[Salah] How does the Muslim Brotherhood manage the election campaign in view of the confrontation with the government last month?

[Al-Banna] The escalation was only on the government side and has not resulted in the Muslim Brotherhood losing any popular support. Just the opposite — Egyptian society perceives the Muslim Brotherhood as a peaceful group, different from the groups advocating violence, and when people see the Muslim Brotherhood being subjected to the government's fierce attacks, they will sympathize with it, and that is what actually happened. It is no secret that the Muslim Brotherhood candidates will only back those belonging to the Islamic tendency or its sympathizers, but the government's actions have pushed many people to choose the Muslim Brotherhood candidates. The government should be aware that those who belong to the Islamic tendency will not hesitate to support the Muslim Brotherhood candidates at the elections, as a result of the pressures applied against them.

[Salah] But the crisis with the government started around the end of last year, a long time before the elections.

[Al-Banna] The election issue is a short-term objective as far as the government is concerned, but the strategic aim is to disable the Islamic tendency, lessen its effectiveness, and prevent it from spreading throughout society. The government felt that the Islamic tendency was spreading everywhere in Egypt and was successful in every election in which it participated, such as the elections of unions and members of the university teachers' clubs, and that it has a larger presence than the government would allow, so it has decided to disable it. The government, by introducing all these measures, does not want the Muslim Brotherhood to have the people's trust.

[Salah] What are the Muslim Brotherhood's expectations for its candidates at the elections?

[Al-Banna] All the candidates could win in their districts, but it is difficult to predict the number of winners, because we do not know whether the elections will be fair.

'Main Battle' of Bright Star '95 Described

NC1411160695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Western Alexandria, 14 Nov (MENA)—The main battle of the Bright Star '95 maneuvers, which have entered their fourth day, began this morning with the participation of troops from Egypt, the United States, France, Britain, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

In the past three days, the participating troops completed their preparations for this major battle, which takes place deep inside enemy territory in a bid to inflict maximum losses in personnel and equipment and force the enemy to give up the territory it occupied and retreat to the international border. The enemy had crossed the border out of greed for the wealth of its neighboring country.

Early this morning, detachments from the participating troops penetrated and seized the enemy troops' security perimeter. Mechanized infantry troops and armored units destroyed the enemy's armored reserves following a preliminary bombardment of enemy strongholds using all types of artillery. The friendly states' air force attacked the enemy's armored troops and provided air protection for the joint forces.

The enemy moved troops supplied with TOW anti-tank missiles to obstruct the advance of the attacking forces. An enemy reserve brigade moved forward to offset the offensive of the joint forces, which attacked it strongly and simultaneously from the rear and the flanks.

U.S. Marines and Egyptian infantry troops conducted a flanking operation against the enemy to disperse its troops. Following this, the implementation of the main battle began. The attacking forces drove deep into enemy territory and attacked the hostile forces that they came across. This attack was carried out by two armored brigades, one Egyptian and the other American, with support from the other troops that attacked the enemy troops and covered the advance of the joint troops. Egyptian, U.S., and UAE Apache aircraft attacked enemy armored vehicles, while French Gazelle aircraft provided air assistance to the advancing troops.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian-U.S. team of naval shock troops conducted a penetration operation to seize an enemy ship. Other teams worked at destroying an enemy air defense battery and attacked one of its command centers. Tomorrow, an offensive of the joint troops deep into enemy territory will be developed by support from Apache and Gazelle aircraft; Egyptian and U.S. armored brigades will destroy the enemy armored brigade. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Commentary Condemns Bombing in Saudi Arabia

LD1411202895 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Before we start our news bulletin, we invite you to listen to this commentary written by the Mauritanian news agency:

Terrorism constitutes one of the worst phenomena of violence which gives rise to condemnation, because it targets the lives of innocent people and expresses the failure of the perpetrators to justify [word indistinct] their goals and positions by democratic means.

The blind terrorism which some groups resort to in order to kill innocent people will only stir the indignation of those who adhere to humanitarian values, and who respect the right for life and the principles of freedom and dignity. [passage omitted]

We strongly condemn the treacherous act carried out in Saudi Arabia on Monday, particularly because it ignored the holy nature of the two holy mosques, watched over by the brotherly and friendly country of Saudi Arabia, and killed many innocent people and injured dozens others.

Such a barbaric act targets the conscience of every person who believes in peace, justice, and freedom. It also calls, more than ever, on the international community to increase its efforts to confront the rise and spread of such acts and to combat terrorism, regardless of its form or [word indistinct].

We would like to note that President Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya today received 'Abd al-Karim Bin-Muhammad al-Mati, the Saudi charge d'affaires in our country.

Sudan

President Discusses Uganda With Libyan Envoy

EA1411181595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, staff Brigadier 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, today received in his office at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum Mr. Jum'ah al-Fazzani, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's secretary for unity who is also the envoy of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He al-Fazzani gave a message to His Excellency confirming the continuation of consultations between Lieutenant General al-Bashir and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on Arab and African issues of mutual concern. It also confirmed the mutual solidarity and unity of the Sudanese and Libyan people and their common destiny toward establishing a foundation that would secure the future of the two peoples.

Mr. Jum'ah al-Fazzani said that the message dwelt on the (?reactivation) of what al-Qadhdhafi had announced on the reestablishment of stable relations between Sudan and Uganda. This followed his recent meeting with the president of the Ugandan regime and was on the basis of the historical relations existing between the peoples of Sudan and Uganda, their neighborly relations and their relations as states of the African continent in particular.

He expressed the hope that this initiative would serve as the basis for mutual understanding between the two states and as a basis for permanent and continuous relations.

Official on Ties With Tanzania, Ugandan 'Aggression'

EA1411213595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The acting first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, (Dr. al-Tijani Salih), has denied that Sudan accused the Tanzanian Government of involvement in the Ugandan acts of aggression on its southern borders.

He said: We are confident that the relations between Sudan and Tanzania will not be affected by any shock however much the forces of evil try to spoil them. He said Tanzania was capable of foiling the plot that targets the two countries.

Speaking at the Foreign Ministry's regular news conference, the first undersecretary said the accusation being made by the Egyptian regime to the effect that Sudan was allowing arms to pass across its border with Egypt, was part of a scenario aimed at making these accusations more widely believed following Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's visit to Cairo. He added that the Egyptian regime, by making these accusations and allegations, has abandoned the norms of respect for neighbors.

(Dr. al-Tijani) said the visit of the interior minister, Bakri Hasan Salih, to some neighboring states confirmed Sudan's keenness to maintain continuity with her neighbors and to consult them on how to maintain bilateral relations [word indistinct].

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry Denounces Riyadh Explosion

LD1411142295 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry issued the following statement: Tunisia has received with great regret and strong denunciation the news of the explosion of the booby-trapped car which took place in Riyadh and left numerous victims and injured.

On this painful occasion, Tunisia expresses its full solidarity and fraternal sympathy with the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and extends her condolences to the families of the victims.

Tunisia, which has always warned of the dangers of extremism and terrorism, and called at the different regional and international level for the need to act firmly to contain and check this phenomenon, renews its call to the international community to strengthen cooperation and coordinate efforts for combating all forms of terrorism, irrespective of its source.

Bahrain

Amir Comments on Gulf Security, Peace Process

JN1311171095 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1130 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 13 Nov (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has emphasized the importance of collective security for the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. He said this can only be achieved by adopting a unified and comprehensive strategy, based on the fact that the security of the GCC states and the defense of their borders are their own responsibility.

In an interview with the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, the amir said Gulf security is a complicated process. He noted that there are interlocked international and regional interests in the Gulf region and that the best way to preserve Gulf security is through close cooperation of the GCC states in the political, economic, security, and defense spheres. His highness said a distinction must be made between mutual interests and ambitions that exceed interests and seek to interfere in the affairs of others to dominate them. He said every state must work for its own interests and not exceed that point to other areas. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Middle East peace process, his highness said peace is inevitable and necessary to promote development in the Middle East. This position is based on the fact that peace must be just and comprehensive for all parties in the region by acknowledging the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, achieving full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and freeing the region of weapons of mass destruction.

His highness said a just and comprehensive peace is now possible. This requires goodwill and willingness to discuss outstanding issues, such as Jerusalem. His highness stressed that the status of the holy city must top the agenda of the negotiations because Jerusalem is a symbol for all Arabs and Muslims. [passage omitted]

His highness said a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will reflect positively on many other nations. His highness hoped that peace would bring security and stability for everybody and would allow people to devote their resources to development efforts.

His highness said normalization between the Arabs themselves should precede normalization with Israel. It is illogical that we should embark on joint projects with Israel while we have not overcome our own differences, he said.

The amir of Bahrain urged Arab leaders to meet for talks on future formulas to face developments. He added: We are in dire need of meetings, instead of fragmentation, in order to safeguard common Arab interests. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on 'Peninsula Shield,' Iran

MM1311152295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
12 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Defense Minister Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in Manama; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Alam-al-Din] The Kuwaiti information minister called for unifying the arms purchase operations of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. Do you believe it is possible to reach agreement on such a proposal?

[Al Khalifah] Arms purchase operations are subject to the considerations and criteria of each state. These could be security, political, or economic criteria. I mean that the types of weapons one state needs differ from the ones other states need. One state might see that what threatens its security differs from what threatens the security of other states, hence it needs types of heavy, medium, and light weapons that differ from what the other states need. Thus I believe that the issue of unifying arms deals within the framework of the Gulf states remains a political issue, rather than a realistic or real issue.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you mean that the idea of unifying Gulf defense forces is a dream rather than a reality?

[Al Khalifah] No, I do not necessarily mean that. I mean that strategic cooperation among states does not compel them to unify the sources of their arms. The closest example is the NATO forces. They represent various states and various weapons. And the fact that the sources of these weapons are not unified does not mean that the NATO states cannot cooperate to protect their security in a collective manner to achieve their common aims.

Of course, we can talk about the benefits of unifying the sources of arms in one case only, namely the allied states' agreeing to form a joint force of their troops to work for a specific and clear aim. Anything other than that would be difficult, if not impossible. Especially as internal arms markets with all their temptations are open to buyers and to competition among producing companies, which are suffering as a result of the states' tendency to reduce the budgets allocated to arms purchases.

['Alam-al-Din] What stage has been reached in the studies concerning the plan to manufacture arms in the Gulf region?

[Al Khalifah] A project of such a scale and importance requires time to achieve, and current developments govern political decisionmaking.

['Alam-al-Din] What about the "Peninsula Shield" project?

[Al Khalifah] The project exists but it is still below the level of ambitions. We are working to develop it to the required scale. The important thing is that the main foundation of the Peninsula Shield Force has been set up. We are now seeing the beginnings of this project.

['Alam-al-Din] Is the delay in developing the project attributable to political considerations?

[Al Khalifah] Not at all. Proof of this is that we have recently agreed to develop the size of the Peninsula Shield Force and its capabilities. This issue was discussed at the meeting of the GCC chiefs of staff a few days ago. It will also be discussed at the defense ministers meeting on 21 November.

['Alam-al-Din] What is the scale of Bahrain's participation in the Peninsula Shield Force?

[Al Khalifah] We are currently participating with one detachment. Our participation will be increased to three detachments, in addition to air and naval forces. The increase also applies to the other GCC states.

['Alam-al-Din] What has been decided as regards the plan to set up an early warning unit in the Gulf states?

[Al Khalifah] The principle has been endorsed, and details of the system are being studied.

['Alam-al-Din] Some people say that the U.S. military presence in Bahrain is now almost permanent.

[Al Khalifah] That is inaccurate. There are no permanent U.S. military bases in Bahrain, but, rather, facilities. There is a big difference between facilities and a permanent presence.

['Alam-al-Din] Where are these facilities provided?

[Al Khalifah] In and near the harbor. These facilities are well known and have existed since 1993. I repeat that there are no U.S. military bases in Bahrain, but, rather, facilities. Every request submitted to us concerning them is considered individually, and we respond to it in the light of our country's higher interests.

['Alam-al-Din] Is it true that you have granted the Americans a three-month period to station their warplanes in Bahrain, and that this period is expected to be extended?

[Al Khalifah] That is not our idea. The Americans submitted the request to us, so we agreed after consideration and in the light of certain circumstances, namely that they do not currently have an aircraft carrier in the region. This situation is to do with their normal administrative procedures.

['Alam-al-Din] But how would you reply to those who say that the Americans have a permanent presence now?

[Al Khalifah] Let us be logical and realistic. Let us admit that the clear presence of the major states' fleets in Gulf waters is not something new in our region. It is an old and continuing presence which falls within the concept of the freedom of international shipping.

Let us also acknowledge that, if the major states want to send their fleets to Gulf waters, they will do so without consulting anyone and without anyone being able to move them out of it [the Gulf region]. What the major states are interested in is their own interests, which they will hasten to protect by all means, whether we like it or not. Thus I say that it is better for the forces of the major states to be present in Gulf waters with our approval and knowledge and at our own will.

['Alam-al-Din] What are the sources of threats to Bahrain and the region's states?

[Al Khalifah] We in Bahrain see Iran as a main source of threat. We believe that this threat will continue, unless Iran decides to change its policy, some of whose features are represented at present in its occupation of the islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, its interference in the internal affairs of some Gulf states, and its support for some extremist organizations.

We do not accept such a policy at all. We see it as a direct threat to the region as a whole. This threat will not disappear unless Iran abandons this policy and decides to follow the road of cooperation, dialogue, and coexistence. Then we would be the first to welcome this cooperation.

We have coexisted and cooperated with the Iranians for thousands of years, and we have also engaged in wars with them. We are now willing to repeat the coexistence and friendship experiment if their leadership decides to change its policy. We hope that the Iranian leadership will not make Saddam Husayn's mistakes.

['Alam-al-Din] Is there an understanding on such cooperation?

[Al Khalifah] It is regrettable to see officials in Iran displaying no flexibility or positive willingness to improve relations. However, through our regional and international arrangements we are neutralizing this threat, which does not alarm us.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you expect the Gulf summit, scheduled to be held in Muscat next month, to adopt important security resolutions?

[Al Khalifah] Some people are pessimistic and others are optimistic. Praise be to God, I belong to the second group. Through patience and perseverance we have made important achievements in the march of our Gulf cooperation. We hope that border issues will be discussed and that rules will be drawn up in this connection. I mean not only the border issue between Bahrain and Qatar, but also the border issues in all the GCC states. I am confident that agreeing to resolve this issue would lead to implementing some of the frozen security, military, and economic projects.

Opposition Leaders Apologize for Protests

NC1011152295 Paris AFP in English
1446 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, Nov 10 (AFP)—Bahraini newspapers on Friday [10 November] published a letter of apology written in April by five opposition leaders for violent protests which shook the Gulf state earlier this year.

The letter, addressed to Bahrain's emir, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman al-Khalifah, said: "We regret the events which happened, and we offer our apologies to your highness if our activities were the cause of the trouble."

"We assure you of our loyalty and urge you to allow us to take an initiative to calm the situation," it said.

Bahrain was hit by months of rioting which erupted after the Sunni-led authorities arrested last December a Shiite Moslem cleric, who had called for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

The wave of violence left 12 people dead before it came to an end in April, when the letter of apology was written.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, a Shiite cleric who signed the letter, told AFP in Nicosia that it was written when he and the four other signatories were in prison.

"We wanted to make a move to put an end to the tension and stop the bloodshed. The security services told us that first we had to apologise to the emir in the terms which suited him," said Shaykh Jamri, contacted by telephone.

He said the letter was published in Bahrain on Friday to "put pressure" on opposition leaders and "weaken their position." [passage omitted]

Shiite Clerics Appeal to GCC To Help Lower Tension

NC0911143795 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Oct 95 p 16

[Report by Central News Unit]

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of Shiite clerics in Bahrain have requested that Persian Gulf leaders use their influence on the Al Khalifah clan to halt the proliferating tension in that country.

According to a United Press [UPI] report, the group stated that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] leaders should use their influence and help to restore peace in the country. The statement added that what is happening in Bahrain will also affect the other countries in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, the hunger strike by the Bahrain Liberation Front members—who are opposed to the government—led by Shaykh 'Abd-al- Amir al-Jamri, a former parliament deputy, continues in its fourth day.

The hunger strikers are demanding the implementation of a resolution that was agreed upon between the government and the opposition last Shahrivar [23 August—22 September]. They state that this resolution has been violated with the resumption of the trial of the political activists. They also demand the release of all political prisoners.

According to the latest reports, two of the hunger strikers have been hospitalized.

Kuwait

Prime Minister on Arab Reconciliation, Other Issues

NC1311214295 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
10 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah by Ibrahim Nafi' in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nafi'] Many are at present holding Kuwait responsible for the [failure] to restore Arab accord. What is your opinion of this? Is Kuwait responsible or does the problem lie with the restoration of Arab reconciliation itself? What is Kuwait's view of how to achieve this reconciliation?

[Al-Sabah] To answer the question, I have to tell you that we have a firm strategy on collective Arab action. As you know, when the treacherous Iraqi aggression against Kuwait took place, six countries supported Iraq in this aggression, regardless of whether that support or backing was direct or indirect. Hence we believe that these countries had a role in the Iraqi aggression throughout the months of Kuwait's occupation. Our strategy primarily asserts that the head of the ruling regime in Iraq has to implement all the Security Council resolutions. This is as far as Iraq is concerned. As to the stands of the countries which supported Iraq and which we felt had wronged Kuwait and its people, we have not closed the doors to them. We said that these countries have to propose a policy in which they clearly assert the need for Iraq's ruling regime to implement all the Security Council resolutions, most prominently the resolution on the release of all prisoners. This is our stand on this issue and we have declared this very clearly and frankly.

[Nafi'] There have been statements that Kuwait is ready for the gradual restoration of relations with so-called hostile countries?

[Al-Sabah] These statements mean not placing obstacles or closing doors before these countries. We have asked the officials in them to declare their stands. We are not looking at the past, but to the present and the future. Several positive stands could be taken to show that support for Kuwait is not merely in words. All the Kuwaitis want is to be sure that these countries are coming forward with good intentions and with credibility and they want these countries to make their new stand prominently.

[Nafi'] Following this development in stands, could relations with these countries be restored?

[Al-Sabah] We have no objection. In fact we will not put up any obstacles when these countries declare their stands frankly and credibly and declare that they support Kuwait. We in Kuwait hear that these countries have sensed their mistake and are moving with a new policy and endeavor. As to the differences, Kuwait is not their cause. Who is splitting the Arab nation? Saddam Husayn.

[Nafi'] What was the nature of the mission of Shaykh Sabah al- Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and his meeting with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan following the latter's statements on reconciliation?

[Al-Sabah] I want to explain the facts. Our relations with the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council are good and excellent. We are seeking to intensify these relations and cooperation in all fields. Of course we know that Shaykh Zayid has his stand. But following his statements, specially those about reconciliation, we said that there are still things to be resolved before the reconciliation and that there are steps and measures for this reconciliation. Our sons are still prisoners in Iraqi jails. Saddam's intentions remain the same. He still has his expansionist ambitions. So could we have reconciliation? As to the bases which we rely on to explain the issue of reconciliation, steps and measures have to be taken in order to protect our present and our future.

[Nafi'] Has the foreign minister's mission succeeded in that visit to the UAE?

[Al-Sabah] Brother Sabah al-Ahmad made the visit, met Shaykh Zayid, and returned to Kuwait after hearing a lot about Shaykh Zayid's view of the reconciliation issue. We heard Shaykh Zayid's explanation of his statement on the need for Iraq to implement all the Security Council resolutions. The fact remains that this issue is not subject to prevarication or maneuvering. These were international resolutions passed about Iraq. Neither we nor anyone else in the world owns them. These resolutions were issued by an international organization called the Security Council. Iraq has to implement these resolutions.

[Nafi'] Your highness, Shaykh Zayid also emphasized that the UAE completely supports Kuwait.

[Al-Sabah] Shaykh Zayid's position is positive.

[Nafi'] Shaykh Zayid also asserted that he is on Kuwait's side 100 percent, now, in the past, and in the future.

[Al-Sabah] Yes, yes.

[Nafi'] When I asked His Highness Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al- Ahmad if Kuwait might join a collective Arab initiative to extend humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people, he replied: I agree.

[Al-Sabah] to the Iraqi people?

[Nafi'] Yes, to the people, not the regime, in the form of humanitarian food and medical aid, not cash aid which might be spent on purchasing weapons.

[Al-Sabah] Let me answer this question very frankly and clearly. Proceeding from its sense of duty, Kuwait has not hesitated to send food and medical aid to the displaced people in south and north Iraq. We have sent such aid and are ready to send more. We are ready to send everything that these displaced people in the Iraqi southern and northern border areas need.

[Nafi'] What about the Iraqi people? Are you willing to send aid to them provided that no money is used to shore up the regime?

[Al-Sabah] Those we have been aiding are part of the Iraqi nation. They are found in the south and the north.

[Nafi'] People are always wondering about Kuwait's views regarding the establishment of relations with Iraq in the future, particularly as future Kuwaiti and Iraqi generations will continue to live together as neighbors after Saddam is gone.

[Al-Sabah] The question of future Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations needs more study. Kuwaiti citizens cannot easily forget what happened during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. It is impossible.

[Nafi'] They will still be your neighbors.

[Al-Sabah] My neighbors, yes, but we must take certain matters into account. There are still 600 Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. This alone should be a sufficient answer. No Kuwaiti citizen can forget what happened because the wound has not yet healed.

[Nafi'] Have the Arab League's efforts produced any results regarding the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait appreciates Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's efforts to secure release of Kuwaiti POW's. We thank him and wish him luck.

[Nafi'] What has been achieved in the effort to know the location where these prisoners are held?

[Al-Sabah] They say they are looking for them. Meetings are held in Switzerland every three months between brother Salim Sabah al- Salim, chairman of the Kuwaiti Committee for POW's and Missing Persons, and UN representatives. A technical subcommittee has also been formed. It meets alternately on the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides of the border. Last week it held its third meeting. We continue to hear promises from the Iraqis that they will search and send a reply. Most recently they said they would reply next month.

[Nafi'] Have you received a reply from any of these groups?

[Al-Sabah] So far we have received no convincing reply from the Iraqis.

[Nafi'] Numerous Iraqi groups, particularly Army officers, flee Iraq and seek asylum in Kuwait. I believe there was once a pilot among them.

[Al-Sabah] These people actually come overland on foot. It is also possible that persons from other countries come to us. We receive these people and their families, offer them facilities, and study their conditions.

[Nafi'] What is your assessment of the current role of the Kuwaiti press? I ask you this question in my capacity as president of the Egyptian Journalists Association.

[Al-Sabah] The Kuwaiti press sometimes perpetrates certain excesses, to use a term familiar to you. We tolerate these excesses within reasonable bounds, but we take special care not to allow anything to be published that might adversely affect our relations and agreements with fraternal and friendly countries. The brother journalists show understanding of our position.

[Nafi'] Political relations between Egypt and Kuwait are very special. I wonder, however, if the volume of trade between the two countries is equal to these political relations? How can we develop this trade?

[Al-Sabah] I would like to say that Kuwait looks forward to greater cooperation with sister Egypt in all spheres, including the fields of economy and trade. We don't want to be touchy on this issue or complicate matters. We would like to hear what measures our Egyptian brothers wish Kuwait to take to increase the economic and commercial cooperation between our two countries. We believe this cooperation will benefit Kuwait and Egypt alike. We will not forget Egypt's fine positions on Kuwaiti issues and its backing for us.

[Nafi'] The two countries' relationship is a very amicable one.

[Al-Sabah] We are looking forward to more cooperation.

[Nafi'] What are the conditions of Egyptian workers in Kuwait like?

[Al-Sabah] My brother, our Egyptian brothers are contributing to the reconstruction effort in Kuwait. I am interested in hearing from our Egyptian brothers what measures they would like the Kuwaiti authorities to take in order to help them. We are willing to offer our Egyptian brothers all possible facilities.

[Nafi'] Thank you, Your Highness.

Ties With Jordan To Be Restored 'by Stages'

MM1311152695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faris al-Salman: "Kuwait To Restore Its Frozen Relations With Jordan by Stages"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait — An authoritative Kuwaiti official confirmed yesterday that the restoration of relations with Jordan is proceeding according to carefully considered steps on the basis of stages governed first by Kuwaiti interests.

The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers, which convened yesterday under Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, was brought up to date on the question of restoring relations with Jordan. The authoritative source said that the Council of Ministers has assigned the Foreign Ministry to follow up the issue and to take the necessary steps in this connection. The source pointed out that the restoration of relations with Jordan or any other state is not governed by decisions issued on the spur of the moment, but, rather, on the basis of a study of the other party's behavior toward Kuwait's just issues.

A source at the Foreign Ministry has said that what AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT said in its report on Friday [the paper reported that "the day after tomorrow Kuwait will begin a series of practical steps toward normalizing its relations with Jordan"] is true. The source confirmed that the restoration of relations with Jordan is proceeding according to specific steps, including restoring telephone and mail links between the two countries, opening flight routes, and reopening the Jordanian Embassy.

The source said that what applies to Kuwaiti-Jordanian relations will apply to Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations in the next few days. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Discusses Gulf, Bilateral Issues

LD1011121595 Tehran IRNA in English
1138 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi (UAE), Nov. 10, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Kuwait Gholamali San'ati in Kuwait on Thursday evening met with Kuwait university professor, 'Abdallah Khalifah al-Shayji, who also serves as advisor to the country's parliament speaker.

The two sides at the meeting exchanged views on issues relevant to the Persian Gulf and ways of expanding and consolidating Tehran- Kuwait ties.

Qatar

Official on Pending Air Accord With Israel

NC1211172695 Paris AFP in English
1511 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Doha, Nov 12 (AFP)—Israel and Qatar will sign an agreement to establish air links, which will be the first between the Jewish state and a Gulf Arab country, a Qatari official said Sunday [12 November].

"An Israeli delegation, including officials from the civil aviation, will visit Doha next week to sign an agreement," he told AFP, asking not to be named.

He said the "Israeli authorities have sent a letter to Qatar, urging that bilateral relations be strengthened through an accord to exploit air transport between Tel Aviv and Doha."

Under the proposed agreement, "an air liaison between Tel-Aviv and Doha would be opened," he added, without specifying which company would exploit it.

Qatar and Israel do not have diplomatic relations but Doha has taken several steps over the past few months for a rapprochement with the Jewish state. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Syria's al-Asad Phones King Fahd on Bombing

LD1411174795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1643 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 Nov (SPA) — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the cvustodian of the two holy mosques, today received a telephone call from his brother, His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. President al- Asad expressed his profound regret for the criminal incident which took place in the city of Riyadh yesterday. President al-Asad stressed his condemnation and denunciation of the incident and stressed Syria's siding with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in confronting everything which threatens its security and stability. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Reassures Bahrain Over Security

LD1211205495 Riyadh SPA in English
1949 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Nov 12 (SPA) — Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin- Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud has made it clear that the security of Bahrain is an indivisible part of the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Prince Nayif, who made the remarks in a statement at the end of the 14th Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Interior Ministers Meeting, confirmed that Saudi Arabia would not hesitate to respond to any request from the Bahrain Government for cooperation between the security bodies of the two countries if such cooperation would serve the security of Bahrain and added that the kingdom will do the same if any of the GCC states make similar requests.

Prince Nayif commended the contents of the final communique issued at the end of the meeting in Bahrain today and said the statement came to emphasize the statement issued at the end of the emergency meeting held by the ministers in Manama last April on the security and stability of Bahrain.

Prince Nayif confirmed anew that the states of the region have firmly decided to get rid of terrorism and all acts that might disturb the security and stability of the region. He said that there were no border disputes between the kingdom and the rest of the Gulf states.

Prince Nayif stated that the paramount role which should be played by the region's media is to repulse the hostile media campaigns being waged by some foreign media against the GCC states and added that during the emergency meeting held by the GCC interior ministers last April in Bahrain, they underlined the role of information and called on ministers of information to undertake necessary measures to oppose hostile campaigns.

On Saudi/Yemeni agreements on security and combatting drugs, Prince Nayif said he has been personally authorized to work out the two pacts and both agreements were submitted to the Yemeni Interior Minister Husayn 'Arab and the kingdom is ready to sign them during the upcoming visit by the Yemeni minister to the kingdom.

He welcomed the project of a movement card for citizens of the GCC states and said some of the gcc member states have already implemented the system.

On the Saudi position on the card Prince Nayif said the kingdom welcomed the project in principle and is working toward completing some technical aspects pertaining to information registered in passports which does not appear on the card.

He expressed delight at the outcome of his meetings with the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman al-Khalifah and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman al-Khalifah during which bilateral ties and other matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Interior Minister on Mosque Bombing, Security

LD1411153595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 Nov — His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, said: "We should not rule out organized crime from happening here because we are naturally part and parcel of this vast world."

His highness stressed that the state will inform the citizen and public opinion of everything. He said in this context: "For our part, we will never be ambiguous, but completely clear, and we will give the Saudi citizen and the internal and external public opinion the facts of the matters completely and clearly."

That came in an interview given by his highness the interior minister to AL-JAZIRAH newspaper, which it published in its issue of today, Tuesday, in which he dealt with a number of issues of concern to the Saudi citizen at the internal and external levels. [passage omitted]

His highness said: "We should always be in a position of strength relying on God, then on our Islamic shari'ah [law] which is our aid in combating this dangerous epidemic."

Concerning the incident which took place recently at Qawba' Mosque and its circumstances, his highness the interior minister said: "The Qawba' crime in Bishah was absolutely not an organized crime, but a crime by individual. The criminal did what he did, and what has been announced is the entire truth." [passage omitted]

He added: "I have discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interest with his highness the amir of Bahrain." [passage omitted]

His highness said "As you have seen, the final statement [of the GCC's interior ministers' 14th session] also came to emphasize the decisions of the extraordinary session which the interior ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council's countries held last April in Bahrain over the concern of the council's countries for the security and stability of the state of Bahrain. We thank God for the success of this meeting, each of the council's countries has now its [own] clear security picture, and agreement has been reached on all issues." [passage omitted]

CDLR: Future 'Incidents' Depend on U.S.-Regime Links

MM1511105995 London CDLR MONITOR in Arabic 14 Nov 95

[Communique No. 41 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 14 November — received by fax 15 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] News agencies have reported the explosion incident that occurred in the heart of Riyadh city against a building used by the U.S. Armed Forces. The incident resulted in a number of Americans and other nationals being killed or wounded. Although the Committee has no knowledge of the quarter responsible for the incident, it is not surprised that the incident has taken place. In fact the Committee had warned that such incidents were expected and on the cards because of the method pursued by the regime in ruling the country and dealing with the people. The Committee pointed out in several previous statements, bulletins, and commentaries that what has happened is a natural result of the method of repression and torture used against reformers and the arrest and imprisonment of social and religious leaders, isolating them from their followers and supporters. These leaders played a major role in controlling the masses' anger and rationing their zeal. The regime also banned all legitimate forms of expression, using methods that directly lead to provoking and agitating the young men of the nation, who do not lack the zeal or the capability to acquire and use arms. All this contributed to blocking the road, hence forcing the nation to resort to such actions.

The Committee had also pointed to the growing hostility toward the United States after proving that the Americans are implicated in supporting the Saudi regime and deliberately concealing its crimes, exploiting its agents, and being willing to forfeit the country's destiny for the sake of taking control of that destiny.

The Committee also pointed to the U.S. authorities' deliberate concealment from the U.S. people of the true situation in the Kingdom and the [U.S.] authorities' endeavors to prevent all media services from having access to the serious reports submitted by U.S. intelligence and the research centers belonging to the State and Defense Departments on the deteriorating position of the Saudi regime, and what these reports said about the people's growing indignation and the potential threat surrounding U.S. forces there as a result. In fact the Committee has learned from private sources that the U.S. authorities classify as secret information any information provided by the quarters in question. Instead, the authorities endeavored to give a false picture to indicate that the Saudi regime is stable and coherent, and that the people are satisfied with it, for fear of pressure from the U.S. people, who would demand that the shape of the relationship with the Saudi regime be altered if they had access to this information.

What should be known is that such incidents will not be prevented by further tight security, spying, or repression. They can only be prevented by reorganizing the shape of the relationship between the ruler and ruled. If the Americans are serious about averting such incidents, they must cease to support that regime in its criminal march and reconsider sanctioning it for the sake of staying in the Arabian Peninsula.

The Committee believes that the first steps that could contribute to reducing such incidents are to release all detainees and hence to work to restore the usurped rights to their owners, including the nation's right of expression and gathering and its right to choose, assess, and judge its rulers.

[Issued] London, Tuesday 20 Jumada al-Thani 1416 H corresponding to 14 November 1995.

'Dissident' Predicts More 'Terrorist' Actions

MS1511092195 London INDEPENDENT in English 15 Nov 95 p 14

[Report by Michael Sheridan: "Riyadh Blast A Declaration Of War, Says Dissident"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A leading Saudi Arabian dissident who has sought refuge in Britain was yesterday quoted as saying the bomb blast in Riyadh on Monday was a "war declaration" against the Saudi royal family.

He predicted more acts of violence and attributed the car bomb attack on an American training centre to disgruntled young Saudis trained in Afghanistan. Six people, five of them Americans, died in the explosion and 60 were injured, including an Indian worker who died yesterday.

Professor Muhammad Mas'ari's comments in an interview with the Associated Press are likely to lead to renewed demands from the Saudi government for Britain to curb the activities of dissidents in London.

"The question is to whom the war declaration is directed — and that's to the Saudi regime," Mr Mas'ari said, adding that the bombers "chose a target that would be acceptable to everyone." He expected that "there will be more violent action but not necessarily this form."

The professor heads a group known as the Committee for Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), which attacks the royal family's alleged corruption and seeks firmer adherence to the Shariah, or Islamic law.

Although the group insists it advocates peaceful reform, its agitation for change has infuriated the Saudi royal family. The subject was raised last week at talks in Jeddah between the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and King Fahd. It also came up at Mr Rifkind's meeting with the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal. British businessmen in the kingdom said last week they feared the issue could damage Britain's commercial interests.

Mr Rifkind said the Government did not like the presence of people such as Mr Mas'ari but could take no action against them unless they broke the law. "We take a very hard line but we act against terrorism, not opinions," Mr Rifkind said.

The Home Office is reviewing an appeal by Mr Mas'ari against deportation to Yemen and he has also lodged an application for political asylum.

The security services are believed to be keeping a close eye on Mr Mas'ari and the CDLR. There is little doubt that if officials can find a reason to get Mr Mas'ari out of the country they will do so.

Two little-known groups, the Islamic Change Movement and the Tigers of the Gulf, claimed responsibility for Monday's bombing. Such titles are often no more than a nom de guerre, giving no clues to the identity of the perpetrators.

But both Mr Mas'ari and Western officials agreed on the likelihood that the bombing could be the work of so-called "Afghanis," devout young men trained by the CIA and Pakistan's military intelligence to use arms and explosives against Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Many have since returned to the Middle East to discover a new outlet for their skills, joining a pool of discontented youth who regard existing governments as corrupt and see Islam as the solution. Some have made their way to Bosnia to fight as mujahidin alongside forces of the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo.

United Arab Emirates

President Shyakh Zayid Condemns Riyadh Explosion

JN1411151695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], expressed his regret over the explosion in Riyadh yesterday.

This came in a telephone call the UAE president made to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said Shaykh Zayid emphasized that the incident conflicts with human and moral values, and expressed UAE solidarity with, and support for Saudi Arabia in face of anything that threatens the security and stability of the region. He also prayed that almighty God save the region from any mishap.

Yemen

Eritreans Reportedly Seize Three Islands

MM1511113495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Faysal Makram: "Yemeni Forces Trying To Recover Three Islands Eritreans Entered Suddenly"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa — It was learned in Sanaa yesterday that units from the Eritrean Armed Forces entered Yemeni territorial waters two days ago and infiltrated three Red Sea islands, installing themselves there without clarifying the reasons for this move.

The sudden Eritrean move alarmed the Yemeni authorities, so units from the Yemeni Navy launched an attack to move the Eritrean troops out of the three Yemeni islands and comb the area situated within Yemeni territorial waters.

Despite the Yemeni authorities' refusal to provide any information about the incident, political and military circles have spoken about it over the past few days, linking it to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Sanaa David Newton in Aden the day before yesterday.

The circles believe that the Yemeni president requested from the U.S. ambassador his country's mediation to persuade the Eritreans to refrain from provocations harming relations with Yemen and disrupting security in the Red Sea region and attempts to insult their neighbors.

There is no full information about the military situation on the three Yemeni islands or the nature of the military confrontation between the two sides. However, military circles believe it is likely that Yemeni forces have managed to move Eritrean troops out of one of the three islands, while the situation concerning the other two islands is not known. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Denounces Riyadh 'Criminal' Bombing

JN1411143195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting today under Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd- al-Ghani. [passage omitted]

The cabinet expressed its denunciation and condemnation of the bombing incident that took place in Riyadh, capital of the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, yesterday. The cabinet renewed the condemnation of our country's leadership, government, and people of all forms of terrorism and violence. The cabinet offered its condolences to the families of the victims of the criminal incident.

Prime Minister Affirms No 'Terrorist' Bases in Country

NC1011210795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani has reiterated that his country will not under any circumstances accept to serve as a base for any terrorist or hostile action against Egypt or any other Arab country.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published on 11 November, he noted that Yemen owes Egypt for its assistance to gain its freedom and independence and, therefore, it cannot be a source of hostility against Egypt. 'Abd-al-Ghani pointed out that Yemen recently deported approximately 4,000 persons, including Algerian, Libyan, and Sudanese nationals, who were residing there illegally. They were deported so that Yemen would not be a source of trouble against any of the Arab brothers, he said.

Regarding the measures that Yemen has taken to end the activity of the terrorist Egyptian elements on its territory, the Yemeni prime minister said that this issue had been discussed extensively with Egyptian officials. Yemeni authorities investigated to see if training camps or elements working against Egypt existed in the country, he added. Regarding this, he noted that some cases were found two months ago and contacts were made with Egypt to ascertain if these cases included people wanted for trial in Egypt.

The Yemeni prime minister emphasized that his country seeks to promote trade with Egypt. He said there were no obstacles to increasing trade between the two countries, adding that there are wide opportunities in Yemen for Egyptian products, such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, cement, and furniture. He pointed out that the private sector in Egypt and Yemen could play an important role in boosting joint economic cooperation. He noted that the Suez Canal stands to gain much from the development of the Aden port and the establishment of a free zone there, a project the first part of which will cost $500 million and will take two years.

Regarding Yemeni-Saudi relations, 'Abd-al-Ghani stressed that these relations improved much after the signing of the joint memorandum of understanding and the Yemeni president's visit to Saudi Arabia.

Security Source: 3,000 Foreigners Deported

MM1311164395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Salam Tahir: "Security Official in Sanaa Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Yemen Deported 3,000 Foreigners, Algerian's File Referred to Prosecutor's Office"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aden — A senior Yemeni security source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Yemen has so far deported more than 3,000 foreigners residing illegally in the country. Most of them have been deported in coordination with their countries' embassies in Sanaa. The source said that extremist elements from Egypt, Algeria, and Libya have been deported in different ways, thereby indicating that they have not been deported to their original countries.

The source pointed out that the Yemeni authorities have imposed tight security around the Libyan Embassy in Sanaa despite their knowledge of the nonexistence of any real threat to blow up the embassy. The source said: "Regrettably, the Libyan charge d'affaires at the embassy in Sanaa stated hastily that there had been threats to him and the embassy's staff — which is illogical, because no one had contacted him. He was told that a person had contacted his secretary and told her that, if you agree to our deportation, we will take measures [against you]." The source pointed out that the Yemeni authorities have recently deported a number of Libyans and Algerians.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources had said that 16 Libyans were deported on 2 November to a country believed to be Sudan.

The source said that the Yemeni Interior Ministry has concluded the investigations with the Algerian extremist Adam Salah-al-Din [as transliterated], known as Shaykh Abu-'Abd-al-Rahman, who is responsible for last month's al-Dali' incidents, in which some people were killed and others wounded. It has referred his file and that of five of his Yemeni supporters to the general prosecutor's office, which will refer them to the court. The source stressed that "the Interior Ministry is no longer in charge of the case."

With regard to the incidents at Radfan — al-Mallah center — in Lahij Governorate, the source stressed that security authorities in the governorate had managed last Monday to arrest Fadl Khalid Muhsin following clashes with security forces which resulted in a number of casualties, which the source did not specify. The source pointed out that this issue is not political in nature, and that Fadl Khalid Muhsin (said to be a member of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, a partner in the ruling coalition in Yemen) is being interrogated.

Concluding, the source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the security situation in Sanaa and throughout Yemen is stable and there is no cause for concern, and that Yemen does not object to the legal presence of foreigners on its territory, pointing out that there are 15,000 foreigners of various nationalities in Yemen.

Baghdad on 'Serious' Impact of Riyadh Explosion

JN1511072495 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Observers say yesterday's blast in Riyadh will have a serious negative impact on the political and economic situation in Saudi Arabia.

An analyst says the swift assurances made by King Fahd on the soundness and stability of the Saudi economy and his assertions during a cabinet meeting yesterday that the political situation is under control reflect the state of fear and suspicion that has emerged in Saudi Arabia since the explosion.

Saudi Information Minister Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi cited Fahd as saying during the cabinet session that Saudi Arabia will continue with its economic policy to end its crisis and to adjust the budget deficit.

REUTER says that Saudi Arabia's $40 billion budget for this year shows a $4 billion deficit. The agency says the Saudis hope they can adjust the deficit if oil prices rise.

In a related development, U.S. President Bill Clinton pledged to retaliate for the death of the five Americans who were killed in the Riyadh explosion along with a sixth victim, who was a Saudi national [as heard].

The U.S. State Department confirmed Clinton's doubts about the ability of the Riyadh authorities. In a statement today, the State Department said a team of FBI investigators will leave for Riyadh to help Saudi authorities investigate the explosion.

It seems the U.S. authorities are determined to force Riyadh to hand over the perpetrators of the explosion. Clinton noted [word indistinct] that U.S. agencies will be actively involved in the investigations. He said: We will work on [words indistinct] to determine those responsible and bring them to justice.

Reports of Role in Bombing Denied

JN1511114095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH has denied any Iraqi involvement in the blast that ripped through the U.S. mission offices in Riyadh on 13 November, killing five Americans and one Filipino and wounding about 60, including 30 Americans.

A Kuwaiti newspaper yesterday said Iraq was behind the explosion. Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former head of the Iraqi military intelligence service who joined the opposition, had earlier made a similar claim.

Paper Criticizes Statements by UK's Rifkind

JN1511090895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says British policy is a mixture of falsehoods and lies, blended with the animosity and aspirations of an old man who yearns for a bygone era.

In an article today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, comments on the allegations made by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind that Iraq has hidden its biological program. The paper says these allegations ignore all the reports presented by the international inspection teams and experts on Iraq's implementation of all international resolutions.

It stresses that these allegations lack credibility because they are not based on the facts and reality, which cannot be overlooked. The paper notes that with such statements, the British foreign secretary wants to voice his dissatisfaction with the growing popular and official Arab and world positions demanding an end to the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq.

The paper says: London is troubled by Arab leaders even thinking about inter-Arab reconciliation, let alone listening to the call for this reconciliation coming from the capital of the United Arab Emirates—and through its president in particular.

The paper says Rifkind is making a mistake if he thinks that anyone will listen to his allegations, which the Americans themselves have begun to consider worthless. They are now working on fabricating new excuses to maintain the embargo.

BABIL Criticizes Arab League Secretary General

JN1411112095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper urges Arab governments to respond favorably to Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan's call for inter-Arab reconciliation and an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people.

In an editorial today entitled "Arab Reconciliation Is in the Interest of All Parties," the newspaper BABIL adds: This call continues to draw a sympathetic response from official and popular Arab quarters. It caps a series of similar noble calls made by several Arab governments and Arab popular quarters since the imposition of sanctions on our people in August 1990. Like its predecessors, this call stems from a responsible national and pan- Arab stand, and also from an awareness of the constants and prerequisites of Arab solidarity. It reflects a profound awareness of the need for solidarity and cooperation in order to cope with economic pressures, and the resulting technological and scientific challenges and security dangers.

The paper goes on to say: The Arab countries that are not separated by geographic barriers, ethnic or religious differences, language differences, or historical disputes must work around minor disputes and focus on the many things they have in common. They must heed the interests of their populations and their common destiny by responding favorably to this honorable call, as well as to each and every honest Arab call that places Arab interests above all considerations because this would promote the interests of each and every Arab side.

The paper touches on the role the Arab League can play in this regard, reiterating the importance of being active in this role.

The paper adds: It would have been very useful if the Arab League secretary general had made some contributions to this endeavor, which could bring the Arabs together. Instead, he has chosen to confer Arab legitimacy on the air of vindictiveness and quarreling that only promotes division, disunity, and fragmentation among Arabs.

The paper describes as strange and regrettable the statement the Arab League secretary general made yesterday to the effect that the time has not yet come for ending the Iraqi people's suffering and effecting inter-Arab reconciliation.

Columnist Defends Nation's 'Democratic Practice'

JN1411200295 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 28 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Sami Mahdi: "Before and After the Referendum: We and Other Peoples' Democracy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Democracy is not a slogan which is raised when in need, but a great principle which must be upheld in words and in deeds, in theory and in practice, because it is a principle which is strongly and vitally linked to the individual's rights, duties, role in society, and place in life. It is a wide perspective of life, as leader President Saddam Husayn put it.

Therefore, democracy must not come as a result of an order, an advice, or a hint by anyone, but must stem from the individual himself both in words and deeds. It also must not be a seasonal fashion, but a genuine and lasting practice. Moreover, this practice must not be formal, but an effective expression of the letter and spirit of this principle.

Democracy also is not words which are uttered freely or written in books, studies, and newspaper columns, but a principle which must be enshrined in constitutions and laws, a practice which must be embodied by institutions, and an authority which strongly believes in it, encourages its deep awareness and practice, watches over it, and entrenches and consolidates its traditions, including both rights and duties.

Furthermore, democracy is not a stereotype formula which must be applied blindly, a specific practice which must be copied, or a specific experiment which must be emulated automatically, but a fundamental substance which must stem from a nation's historical experience and spiritual, cultural, ethical, and psychological heritage, taking all its circumstances and needs into consideration; a substance which interacts with the experiences of other nations in order to enrich this special national experience, not falsify it, and strengthen and expand its scope, not distort it. This is the democracy which Ba'thists believe in.

If we are to look at the world around us both far and near, we will see how the substance of democracy has been distorted and how democracy itself has been transformed into a formal, seasonal game, which is aimed at absorbing public resentment and guaranteeing the interests of the oligarchy rather than recognizing the people's right to practice democracy and to create the political and social atmosphere which will help achieve their happiness and release their energies.

It has also been observed in today's world that the imperialist West is trying to monopolize the belief in and advocacy of democracy and place a halo over its own special political and social system with the help of the publicity provided by its media, so that those influenced by these media would think that western democracies are God's paradises on earth. Meanwhile, the imperialist West launches all out campaigns against others, especially the countries of the Third World, accusing them of thwarting democracy and violating human rights. All this is an excuse to pressure them, interfere in their internal affairs, and achieve its undeclared imperialist aims. [passage omitted]

The imperialist West does all that in a selective, calculated, and timely manner by targeting certain states, especially those independent states which reject domination and are proud of their private experience and heritage and have their own view of their problems and their solutions, such as Iraq. Yet, the West turns a blind eye to the states which follow its policy and defend its interests, or simply directs occasional soft criticism of some aspects of their rule in order to lend some credibility to its slogan, as it does with some of the states surrounding us. [passage omitted]

Therefore, we say that the Americans and westerners who bemoan democracy in Iraq and throw stones at it, are themselves living in glass houses, just as are those states which live under the U.S. umbrella and brag about their deformed systems which do not enjoy the most fundamental concepts of democracy.

We all know the history of every ruler, especially those who have been in power for a long time. We know how they came to the seats of power and under whose protection they have remained on those seats, how they have indulged in hurting their peoples and how they have become the advocates of democracy overnight and also under whose order their countries now have parliaments, open parties, and private newspapers. We know in particular how parliamentary elections are held in these countries and how parties are founded and licensed or not licensed when necessary. We also know how the formal opposition is given some opportunities and the real opposition is bared from all opportunities. We know the limitations of the freedom of political action and the type of restrictions which are enforced on the press and how daily and weekly directives are given to the press. Moreover, we know to what extent human rights are respected and protected in these countries. On the other hand, we also know the extent of freedom which is given to the security and intelligence organs in dealing with parties and individuals and in penetrating these parties, buying consciences, making false charges, defaming clean and chaste citizens, and punishing the rebellious whenever necessary by all kinds of methods, including liquidation and assassination.

We know all that. We do not care if any such a democrat throws a stone at us or attacks our practice of democracy. But we are surprised when one of them finds fault in our referendum on the presidency of leader Saddam Husayn, while he himself had only come to power by inheritance and in dubious circumstances and has only remained in power to this day under imperialist protection. At any rate, we are proceeding on our course to build our democratic experiment brick by brick under no one's order or advice, but out of genuine and firm faith in democracy; a faith which stems from belief and confidence in the people, devotion to their service, and sacrifice for their sake. We do not claim that our experiment is perfect and lacks any blemishes, nor do we claim that we are immune to errors and above criticism. But, we firmly believe that democracy is one of our genuine principles. Therefore, we will adhere to our principles and defend them with principled motives, not tactical motives or temporary pressure. How can freedom be one of the Ba'th Party's three basic principles and objectives [freedom, unity, socialism] without democracy being at the core of this principle?

Saddam Cables King Husayn on Birthday

JN1411093095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA) — His Excellency President Saddam Husayn sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on his birthday.

The cable reads: It pleases me to extend to your majesty my heartfelt congratulations on your birthday, wishing you continued good health and happiness, and continued progress and prosperity to the fraternal Jordanian Arab people. May God's peace be upon you.

Two Ships Laden With Imported Rice Unloaded

JN1411145895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY learned that two ships laden with imported rice purchased by the Ministry of Trade have arrived. The ministry's competent cadres have unloaded the two ships.

Health Ministry Officials on Impact of Sanctions

JN1411175595 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov. 14, INA—The Drugs and Medical Appliances Department has said although UN Security Council Committee excluded medicines from the UN embargo imposed on Iraq, since August 1990, embargo has covered medicines in the first place.

Director-General of the department, Dr. Hamdi 'Abbas was quoted by IRAQI NEWS AGENCY's (INA) correspondent as saying many basic medical supplies have been prevented from reaching the country under different pretexts such as anesthetics and other materials used to perform minor and major surgical operations.

According to Dr. 'Abbas, international medical aid to Iraq does not meet but one per cent of Iraq's actual need for medicines and medical appliances.

He went on to say depriving Iraq from using its frozen assets in foreign banks has also affected medicine status in the country as many deals and contracts signed with world medicine firms concerning imports of medical supplies and medicines are now in need of payment, indicating that Iraq was used to import about 400-600 million dollar-worth medicines and medical supplies just before the imposition of sanctions in August 1990.

However, staff of the department have been able to carry out several medical achievements and produce new medicines by relying on local alternatives and potentials, Dr. 'Abbas explained.

Earlier, the Ministry of Health said the British Government has prevented a medical firm from exporting life-saving medicines and anesthetics to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Minister of Health Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak made it clear that the British firm "welcome" has been prevented from supplying Iraq with life-saving medicines needed to treat heart attacks.

As regards anesthetics, the minister said, the British Government has also banned Iraq from importing necessary materials which Iraq used to produce local anesthetics needed to perform major operations and caesarean sections. As a result, Iraqi hospitals can perform only a limited number of operations in comparison with the pre-sanctions period.

The minister blamed the reason also on the sharp shortages of x- ray equipment and lack of spare parts for laboratory test devices.

He added that Britain has obliged some states to deprive Iraqi doctors of access to up-to-date medical and scientific periodicals and publications as well as prevent them from taking part in world scientific conferences by not granting them with entry visa to states where these conferences are held.

According to the minister, the said unhumanitarian practices against the people of Iraq have forced health installations in Iraq to provide patients who suffer from chronic diseases such as heart diseases, hypertension, diabetes and cancer with only half doses of their monthly quota prescribed to them in the medical card.

The minister elaborated that about 800 thousand patients who suffer from chronic diseases need at least 200 million dollars per year to help supply them with their actual needs for medicines and medical supplies.

Rising Mortality Rate Among Children, Elderly Reported

JN1411150895 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 14, INA — The Health Ministry has said that 4,151 Iraqi children under five years had died in September as a result of the embargo.

In a statement to INA, Under Secretary Shawqi Sabri Murqus said hospitals recorded 1,339 child deaths in October due to severe diarrhea cases.

He added that 1,656 children who are under five years of age had died in October as a result of malnutrition caused by shortages of milk and medicine.

The Health Ministry official said that the unjust embargo has caused the death of 1,129 children of the same age group due to pneumonia.

The rate of mortality among the elderly in Iraq rose to 408 in October due to lack of initial health care which caused cases of anemia, diabetes and malignant tumors.

Tension Reported Between PUK, Islamic Movement

JN1011193095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Irbil say that despite the existing rapprochement between Jalal Talabani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK] and the Tehran government, the so-called Kurdistan Islamic Movement, which has known links with Iran, issued a statement urging its men to attack the Jalal Talabani offices. As a result of that statement, the Jalal Talabani groups closed seven religious schools at the Irbil mosques, including the Shaykh Mullah Rashid Mosque in Tahrawah, the Martyr Sabah Mosque in the (Shuraysh) district, the al-Abyad Mosque in the al-Sittin Street, the Hajjah Saniyah Mosque in the Salah al-Din district, and the al-Kawani Mosque in (Bastah Biazah).

The INA special correspondent in Irbil says that because of the tense situation between it and the Talabani loyalists, the so-called Islamic Movement moved its main offices to the border areas in Pishdar, Jabal Qindil, and Raniyah.

Concerning the situation at colleges and institutes, the correspondent says that most of students in the autonomous region have not joined their colleges because of the serious shortage of teachers and transportation difficulties, and because students are forced to work to feed families. In addition, the subversive cliques have forced some students to quit schools and recruited them by force into their armed groups.

Talabani Returns Home After 2-Month Tour

NC1111165195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With God's care and protection, brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and the members of his delegation returned to the homeland yesterday afternoon following a two-month tour abroad. [passage omitted]

Talabani on Country's Unity, Ties With Turkey

NC1311164295 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
11 Nov 95 p 7

[Interview with PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani by 'Amr 'Abd-al-Sami' in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abd-al-Sami'] You talk a lot about Kurdish rights in Iraq. Many believe that these rights only mean fragmentation, partition, and secession. This is resisted, not only by the Iraqi regime, but by all the regional forces which believe that Iraq's unity and national integrity are the basis for any internationally approved status for Iraq. How do you explain your stand in light of this?

[Talabani] The Kurdish people have been a factor in the establishment of the Iraqi state since the First World War. It has always advocated two principal slogans, democracy and national rights. [passage omitted]

The Kurdish issue is not a new one, nor was it fabricated after the October or the Gulf war, as some are saying. This issue has been associated with Iraq from the time the state was established to this day. During this period, the Kurdish people have demanded their national rights within Iraq and the Arab world. There has been no secessionist demand and our struggle has never aimed at fragmenting Iraq. It is the Kurds who are calling for real Iraqi unity based on democracy. I do not exaggerate when I say we are the only nationality in Iraq demanding this. Arab nationalists are calling for an Arab unity that would practically lead to the absorption of Iraq. The Islamists are saying that there are no borders in Islam. The Kurds are the only party insisting on Iraq's unity. Therefore, I believe that accusing the Kurds of secession is an attempt by some regional and international groups, specifically extremist Zionist groups, that do not want Iraq and the Kurds to coexist in a strong way. There is no fear for Iraq from the Kurds because they are the ones calling for a united and democratic Iraq. They take the unity of Federal Germany, the federal unity of the United States, Canada's federal unity, and even those of Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates as examples. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] What about crisscrossing regional and international interests in the Kurdish issue, specifically the Turkish ones? What is your stand toward Turkey? To what extent does Turkish intervention affect the Kurds' future?

[Talabani] Arab sympathy with the Kurdish issue is limited. I believe that Egypt has a great responsibility here. Hence the Kurds must be given more scope to talk to the Arab peoples about their issue and explain these facts.

At any rate, our relations with the Turks are bad. There is tension between us. But they have good relations with the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (Mas'ud Barzani). Our ties with the Turks began during the presidency of Ozal. He had an (Ottoman) and not an (Ataturkan) vision. He believed that the Kurdish problem could not be solved by force but through a political solution. He believed that Iraq should be a democratic country not hostile to the Kurds. After Ozal, Turkish policy evolved into a call for cooperation with Saddam and his return to the international community. This conflicts with our stand calling for establishing a democratic alternative. Turkish policy has advocated military suppression as the only means for solving the Kurdish issue and this directly conflicts with our interests. The Turks are now calling for opposing the Kurdish entity inside Iraq in any way possible. Even in the meetings that bring us together with the Americans and English, they do not allow the use of the word Kurd. Turkish policy now regards the (Turkish) Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] as a terrorist organization that must be fought. We do not agree with this. The PKK is one of the strongest Kurdish parties and its major bases are inside Turkey. We believe in the political solution to this issue. But the ultimate reality says that there are now 176 Turkish intellectuals in prison because they have called for a political solution to the Kurdish problem. Hence, these policies have distanced us from Turkey.

Mas'ud Barzani has good relations with the Turks and is fighting the PKK in agreement with the Kurds. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] Are there channels of communication between you and Saddam Husayn?

[Talabani] We do not believe in dialogue or negotiations with Saddam Husayn. Once in a while we receive verbal messages. For instance, I heard that Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations Barzan al-Tikriti announced that he was in the opposition, but in his own way. I contacted him to find out what this way was. He rushed to notify the regime that I had sent him a personal message and the regime replied to that message. I immediately announced that I had not addressed a single word to the government only to Mr. Barzan in private.

Anyway, Barzan al-Tikriti proved that he is not opposed to the regime, but absolutely loyal to the sole dictator. Some Kurds intervene in an attempt to establish contact between the two sides. Dr. Karim Talabani came to Kurdistan recently trying to mediate between us and the

Iraqi Government. However, real negotiations or serious dialogue are presently out of the question.

['Abd-al-Sami'] How can the proposal to set up a civilian administration in Iraq put forward by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], act as an alternative for the divided Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC]?

[Talabani] I have a strong friendship with Baqir al-Hakim. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], which I chair, and the SAIRI are linked by a cooperation charter. He has not called for dissolving the UINC; he called for setting up a field command that embraces everyone operating in the arena. The Iraqi opposition is made up of three types:

1. The opposition within the army and the ruling regime (examples are found in Major General Rafiq al-Sammarra'i, the chief of intelligence; the commander of the 116th Brigade who defected to Kurdistan; and the defecting Gen. Husayn Kamil);

2. The acting opposition in the arena, which embraces the Kurds, the Shiites in the south, and some democratic and communist elements in both the northern and southern regions; and,

3. The opposition abroad in London, Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim believes, and I share his belief, in setting up a field command in the homeland from the powers that really want to act as a nucleus for the opposition front. Even those who rejected the UINC will not be stopped just because they rejected it. This opposition can come and work with the new field command and the UINC as well. We want to open the doors to all those who are opposed to the regime, whether they are individuals or parties, military or civilian, Arabs or Kurds, Sunnis or Shiites.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Questions are being raised about the sources that finance Iraqi opposition forces abroad. How far does this financing influence their positions and actions?

[Talabani] I believe that the opposition, both in Iraq and abroad, seeks to get Arab or international aid. It goes without saying that any party which receives financial assistance from foreign parties must coordinate or unite its efforts with the donor. No party extends aid freely.

['Abd-al-Sami'] During your efforts to change conditions in Iraq, have you become aware of any regional or international agreement to replace Saddam Husayn's regime?

[Talabani] This is a difficult matter. I remember when I last met with Dr. Henry Kissinger in the final year of President Bush's term of office, he told me: "Yes, we wish to remove Saddam from power, but I am afraid we are not pursuing the road that will lead to this objective."

Furthermore, I don't think that all regional powers wish to see Saddam Husayn overthrown at this time. Perhaps everyone wishes to get rid of him in the future, but not now. For example Syria wants a nationalist substitute, not an American or Israeli substitute. Everyone is confused by the issue except King Husayn, who clearly wishes to see a democratic, pluralistic Iraq. I think Israel does not want a rapid change in Iraq.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Noting its intense interest in the defection of General Husayn Kamil, do you think that the United States wants a military substitute for the current Iraqi regime?

[Talabani] The United States informed us officially via our bureau in Washington that it does not really attach much importance to Gen. Husayn Kamil's defection. They don't consider Husayn Kamil a substitute for Saddam. They don't regard him as a leader of the Iraqi opposition. They believe, however, that his defection brought two benefits: First, it broke the family cordon around Saddam Husayn and secondly, Husayn Kamil has much information about conditions inside Iraq. I can perceive a third benefit. His defection will encourage many oppositionists in the Iraqi Army to do the same.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Some observers believe that the Iraqi opposition, particularly the factions incorporated in the INC, erred when they focused more on the objective of toppling Saddam Husayn than on creating an opposition structure that would attract civilian Iraqi forces to confront the military axis formed by the regime itself. Do you agree?

[Talabani] I believe that the INC initially erred when it did not concentrate on working inside the country. However, this year it started to do just that and is now seeking a democratic, pluralistic substitute to the regime. The INC cannot use a military coup d'etat as a vehicle to attain its objectives. By their very nature, these objectives contradict the military option.

KDP Denies Handing Over Arab Families to Regime

JN1011213095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY [NEW KURDISTAN], mouthpiece of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], published a fabricated report in its 8 November issue saying that the Kurdistan

Democratic Party [KDP] handed over 11 families from the brother Arabs living in Dahuk to the Iraqi regime in Baghdad.

An official spokesman of the KDP's first branch refuted the report, saying that these families voluntarily returned to areas under the regime's control and were not expelled or handed over to the regime.

The spokesman added: We ask the parties and all those who seek the truth to visit the area and learn the facts.

The PUK media have been leveling such accusations at our party for some time, accusations that do not deserve a response from us and that are now exposed to all the Kurdistan masses.

Two Injured in Bomb Attack in Irbil

NC1411182695 Paris AFP in English
1720 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, Nov 14 (AFP) — Two people were injured in a bomb attack Tuesday [14 November] against the home of an Iraqi army officer who defected in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, the Iraqi opposition said.

"A bomb containing four kilograms (10 pounds) of TNT, placed at the entry to the home of an INC officer, injured the military officer's wife and infant," a spokesman for the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) told AFP.

The blast occurred in the principal Iraqi Kurd city of Irbil. The spokesman, speaking from the INC's headquarters in London, did not identify the officer because of "security reasons."

He said there were "strong possibilities that the Iraqi secret service was behind the attack."

Kurds have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

Peres on Oslo Accord, Syria, Cabinet Makeup

TA1511093095 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1915 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Interview with Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Ilana Dayan at Peres' Tel Aviv bureau; date not given; from the "'Uvda" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dayan] Can you tell me, Mr. Peres, how you define your main task as the post-Rabin prime minister of Israel? What is the essence of your task?

[Peres] We are at the midway point, in the middle of the lake, and we have to continue swimming so as to reach the shore. In my mind, I have a clear picture of the goal. It is the task Yitzhaq and I took upon ourselves as two old and experienced associates who were prepared to take the blows that result from overcoming obstacles, in order to allow the young generation to enjoy a different world. I feel no hesitation or fear, although I know I will face very, very tough, very painful decisions. They are like surgery, which I believe will heal the body and the soul of our country.

[Dayan] You know better than I do that you are expected to do more than that. You are expected to close the rift, heal the wounds, to bring about some kind of a national reconciliation. I would like to ask you a concrete question: You will have to give some very definite instructions in the coming days, such as orders to the Shin Bet as to what is do be done with rabbis who issued edicts making murder permissible, how to deal with the tough, radical right wing which produced Yig'al 'Amir. Is this war on the radicals a top priority for you?

[Peres] I will not pardon any assassin, I will not excuse anyone who is guilty, and I will not accuse anyone who is not guilty. I will avoid generalizations and sweeping statements that can, God forbid, offend people who have done nothing wrong. I will not make general statements about all rabbis, or all religious people, or all right-wing people, because such statements would be false. There are all kinds of people, and I must be accurate when speaking about either side. We should take care of those who brought about the situation, rather than hassle innocent people. [passage omitted]

[Dayan] On the basis of everything you know about the investigation of the prime minister's assassination, Mr. Peres, do you think there was an organized group, an underground?

[Peres] I am not certain there was an organized underground in the usual sense of the word. There was an atmosphere that permitted and rationalized attacks and an assassination, but I doubt that it can be depicted as an organized underground. [passage omitted]

[Dayan] Will the Oslo B timetable be implemented as agreed?

[Peres] Beyond any doubt. I was raised to believe that my word, oral or written, is binding. Without that, there is no civilization and no democracy. We rule either through words or bullets, and just as we must not fear bullets, we should respect words.

[Dayan] In the present situation, in the wake of Rabin's assassination, what do you expect from Yasir 'Arafat?

[Peres] I expect two things. First, he must prove he is able to combat terror; otherwise, he will hardly be able to be a proper partner. Second, he should modify his tone. Oddly enough — and it has never happened before — the mourning for Yitzhaq Rabin has suddenly turned into an expression of peace. The fact that the territories have also expressed their mourning through their participation in the funeral, for instance, which was attended by so many, made us aware of a change of tone. We must pay attention to this aspect, because nations are conscious of the tone, of the seriousness, of prospects.

[Dayan] Did you tell 'Arafat anything about a need for him to beware of the lunatics in his camp in your conversation with him several days after the assassination?

[Peres] I discussed terror with him, and I told him that we will honor everything we pledged. In fact, he had phoned me and requested to attend the funeral. I thought we should permit it, if possible. I spoke with security officials, who told me it was impossible. They said that there were about 80 delegations, including kings, queens, and heads of state, and that they were simply incapable of providing security to another man with half a million people out in the streets. Therefore, security considerations forced me to tell him it was impossible. Later his visit to Mrs. Le'a Rabin was made possible.

[Dayan] Were you involved in arranging it?

[Peres] I approved it.

[Dayan] I asked about your expectations of 'Arafat because we all know that there is every reason for and probability that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror will continue. Within this context, many people are asking themselves: What will happen if the smallest manifestation of terror occurs? What will happen with the continued redeployment and the Palestinian Police takeover? How will Shim'on Peres cope with it without Yitzhaq Rabin's backing?

[Peres] Naturally, I cannot predict the future, but I have to tell you it can happen. Yet it is not merely a question of what should be done if something happens, God forbid, but also of what should be done to put an end to it. We pulled the PLO out of the world of terror. In fact, the PLO itself is fighting terror for the first time ever. It is making a serious effort. For the first time, the Palestinians have weighty reasons to fight terror. I know we still have an ordeal ahead of us, but I will not despair. However, if I find out that the Palestinians are not doing their job, I will not fail to tell them so.

[Dayan] I will ask again: Do you think this task will be harder without Rabin?

[Peres] It will be harder without Rabin in every sense.

[Dayan] In this context?

[Peres] Not only in this context. As I said, two is too many, and one is too few. In the sense of relations, we had a miracle happen to us, one that happens very seldom in politics: Two ambitious men — we were both ambitious, no point denying it — found common ground, a way to work together, not to fear one another, and to serve a cause that is greater than any of us, greater than both of us together. It was a historic opportunity which we felt we could not waste. [passage omitted]

[Dayan] Mr. Peres, Dennis Ross will arrive next week, and Christopher in two weeks. You are slated to meet with Clinton in Washington at the end of the month. Is there a chance of something happening on the Syrian track in the foreseeable future?

[Peres] I cannot promise anything on the Syrians' behalf. I can only say that, for our part, we will do all that is necessary.

[Dayan] Have you conveyed messages in this spirit to Damascus?

[Peres] I have conveyed messages in this spirit to the U.S. President, foreign secretary, Mr. Dennis Ross himself. I think we have to attain a comprehensive peace in the Middle East....

[Dayan, interrupting] Yet you said yesterday that it will take at least five years, that the century will end before the Middle East peace process matures. What you are saying, then, is that there is no chance for any agreement with the Syrians prior to the next elections?

[Peres] First of all, I never said it will happen in five years; I said it will happen within five years. It is a process. The Palestinian issue is unfinished and needs to be completed. We have to achieve an agreement with the Syrians, and we have not started one yet. We have to achieve an agreement with Lebanon, and even then, peace cannot be limited to borders only. The entire region has to change, not just borders between countries. The region has to adopt an open, modern economy, to develop fair neighborly relations, and to form relations that are much more humane, civilized, and cultivated than they are today.

[Dayan] Since we are far from that on the Syrian track, I would like to ask you: Will Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres be able to offer the Syrians more than Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin proposed?

[Peres] I do not think it is necessary. I think the ball is in the Syrian court, and I think the Syrians should also do some soul- searching. After all, Israel has already signed six peace treaties — three with Egypt, two with the Palestinians, and one with Jordan — and has thus accumulated some experience. That experience indicates a number of things: first, that negotiations have to be conducted on a variety of levels — not just on a military or a diplomatic level, but also on levels of leadership and politics, for instance. Second, all the issues must be discussed simultaneously, because in give-and-take negotiations, one can insist on one point while ceding another. The third interesting matter is that all the existing proposals are dead proposals. There is always a need to put forth new proposals, new bridging proposals. Any existing proposal perpetuates former objections.

[Dayan] You seem to imply — in fact, you have said as much before — that we will be forced to make concessions on the Golan Heights. The question, therefore, is whether you think that, in this sense, Ehud Baraq will be a suitable defense minister.

[Peres] A very interesting question that I will answer when we form a government.

[Dayan] You do not rule out the theoretic possibility that Ehud Baraq can be instrumental in, say, selling the peace process to Israelis concerned with security?

[Peres] In theory, each of us is a prime minister.

[Dayan] Will you agree that, in theory, some personnel changes will occur in the cabinet?

[Peres] They are necessary. First of all, we will need an additional minister in Yitzhaq's place. In fact, one man is holding three ministries today.

[Dayan] You do not intend to keep all three?

[Peres] No.

[Dayan] And you do not know which of them you will let go.

[Peres] No. I know, but I have decided not to announce it yet. [passage omitted]

[Dayan] Is it final that Hayim Ramon will join the government?

[Peres] I assume so.

[Dayan] In a senior position?

[Peres] Everyone has a senior position.

[Dayan] Is it possible that Hayim Ramon will be more than a minister in your cabinet?

[Peres] I will not go into these details, Ilana.

[Dayan] Will there be no personnel changes in the cabinet, beyond the inclusion of Hayim Ramon and those designated for the defense and foreign portfolios?

[Peres] I cannot guarantee that.

[Dayan] You do not rule it out.

[Peres] I do not rule it out, but I will try to move on to a new government with minimum upheaval, including appointments. The assassination of the prime minister is no reason to insult people or change fundamental arrangements. I will try to cause the least shocks when I move on to the new government.

[Dayan] Do you consider Ehud Baraq and Hayim Ramon electoral assets?

[Peres] They are political assets. What does it mean, electoral assets? I think they are a human asset for the government. I am too mature to believe that any single man, or any two men can be electoral assets. Electoral results are not caused by personnel changes, but rather by national moods, by proposed programs, by impressions, by accumulated achievements. This is not a situation where one man appears and is immediately followed by the whole nation.

[Dayan] Mr. Peres, should we understand that elections are to be held as scheduled?

[Peres] Yes, if it is possible — that is, if the government is not toppled before then.

[Dayan] Are you not taking a political risk by allowing political passions to awaken? Right now we are all in the Rabin camp, but politicians are ambitious creatures. Is it not risky?

[Peres] One is ill-advised to be guided by fear. Anyhow, the question is what goal one pursues. If the goal is power, then we should huddle in fear all the time, be afraid to do things. If the goal is to serve a cause — which is the case with me — I have to move ahead. We have been given a year, and we have to devote every single day, every week, every month to the attainment of that goal. [passage omitted]

[Dayan] To the best of your knowledge, Mr. Peres, have there been clear warnings regarding plans to assassinate you?

[Peres] There have been some, but like Yitzhaq, I prefer to die fearlessly than to die of fear. [passage omitted]

Ramon on Conditions for Accepting Cabinet Post

TA1511112095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Histadrut Chairman Hayim Ramon by anchorman Mikha Friedman on 15 November; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Friedman] Good morning, Mr. Ramon.

[Ramon] Good morning.

[Friedman] I want to ask you about your meeting with Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Let us start by discussing things in general since I doubt that we will be able to get into specifics. Was it a good meeting?

[Ramon] The meeting was okay and businesslike. We discussed a wide range of concerns pertaining to the government's future activities and the major issues on the prime minister's and cabinet's agenda, as well as how the Labor Party will be organized and how it will deal with the problems it faces. It was a very good and businesslike meeting if you wish to describe it that way.

[Friedman] Is it clear to both you and Mr. Peres that Hayim Ramon will become a member of the next Israeli cabinet?

[Ramon] I can only speak in my own name. This is not clear to me yet. I will join the government if I believe I can make a significant contribution. I will not sit in the cabinet if I do not feel that I can do so. My ability to contribute depends on the position that I receive or on the portfolio with which the prime minister sees fit to entrust me, if he indeed decides to do so.

[Friedman] Did he mention any specific portfolio he would like to assign to you?

[Ramon] No, we did not discuss the issue of portfolios. We spoke in a very general manner, aside from the fact that it is desired that I join the cabinet.

[Friedman] Did you at least discuss your receiving a senior portfolio, to employ a term you have been using a lot in recent days?

[Ramon] No, I never used the term senior portfolio. That is a term coined by media commentators and analysts. I never spoke about a senior portfolio.

[Friedman] So what do you actually want?

[Ramon] The prime minister knows what I want. He has spoken to me personally. I did not get into details, but I explained the principles according to which I would join the government. At the very start of this interview, I presented the formula that will determine whether I join the cabinet.

[Friedman] Peres has to promote someone to be his deputy. The choice is apparently between you and Ehud Baraq, is it not? Do you feel that Peres is leaning toward promoting Baraq over you?

[Ramon] I think that this also constitutes a fabrication by the media. There is no contest between me and Ehud Baraq. The prime minister will appoint whoever he believes is capable of doing the best job. That is not the problem I am referring to. I reiterate that if the prime minister assigns me to a post in which I feel that I can make a significant contribution to the government, I will accept. If this is not the case, I will not accept a cabinet post because there will be no point. One must remember that I am currently the Histadrut chairman and that there has to be a very good reason for me to leave the Histadrut. I am not sitting at home waiting for job offers. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Says Rabin Murder Changes Nothing

*BR1511114495 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian
15 Nov 95 p 7*

[Interview with Likud leader Benyamin Netanyahu by Fiamma Nirenstein in Tel Aviv; date not given: "'We Are Not Responsible for Rabin's Death'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tel Aviv — [passage omitted] [Nirenstein] Leah Rabin accused you of failing to keep under control that part of the Right which branded her husband an "assassin" and a "traitor." Do you feel any pangs of conscience?

[Netanyahu] I do not wish to make any comment on Leah Rabin's stance or on that of the rest of her family. The Bible itself says: "Thou shalt not judge a man in mourning."

[Nirenstein] But the charge is subscribed to by many. Do you not think that the Likud will in future have to resort to more moderate language toward those who back the peace process? Maybe even clearer relations with the right-wing extremists?

[Netanyahu] Maybe, yes. But verbal violence is certainly not a problem on our side alone. Everybody, on the Left and on the Right, must make an effort. It was the Left which recently called the Likud "national socialist" and accused us of being fascists. They said that objectively speaking we are Hamas' allies.

[Nirenstein] Do you not feel the need to examine your conscience in any way over what your party and you yourself have said and done?

[Netanyahu] Others are already taking care of making a ridiculous selection of my speeches, point by point; we are being examined under a magnifying glass, in what we have said and in our demonstrations. It is an artifical, intolerable attitude which seeks to link Rabin's assassin to us only because the assassin was opposed to the Oslo agreement from a right-wing viewpoint. Does that not seem to you to be somewhat little?

[Nirenstein] Well, objectively there is something in common with the Likud, with your party.

[Netanyahu] No, I deny that; it is simply an intolerable way of turning something into an expedient, of providing a forced interpretation of an event. It is not political division, which exists and which involves 50 percent of Israel's inhabitants, that spawned the horrible, tragic event which fell on us all. The difference lies in the bullets; it lies in the means used to put an opinion across. The means, not the opinion itself. That is the danger for democracy.

[Nirenstein] You recently reaffirmed that your starting and finishing point is the defense of democratic debate. Do you not think it is a bit too easy to put it like that?

[Netanyahu] No, not when the bullets are buzzing all around us. It is precisely to prevent the bullets from dictating the law that we are ready and willing to accept the new left-wing government, the Peres government, which is basically identical to the one that preceded it. Precisely to prevent it being the bullets that change a government.

[Nirenstein] Is it not rather that this new situation has weakened the Likud and the Right as a whole? What does it feel like to see the opinion polls daily showing a constantly declining trend for you?

[Netanyahu] How can one place any trust in opinion polls conducted in the eye of the storm? They do not seem realistic to me. The problems which existed before Rabin's assassination are still all there. And I would have been most surprised if our young people, all our young people, all our people both on the Right and on the Left, had failed to show despair, shock, and bewilderment after what happened, and to participate massively in the event. America, too, after experiencing fully three political assassinations which could have destroyed its balance, regained stability, and harmony was reestablished.

[Nirenstein] Did you meet with Peres yesterday?

[Netanyahu] Yes, indeed I had asked Rabin for a meeting to discuss the violence, but he refused. Now I do not claim that the Knesset will become a model of British propriety, but we did reach an accord on mutual verbal restraint, a promise not to tolerate intemperance. The aim of both sides is to restore democratic debate...

[Nirenstein] Will this democratic debate in which you seem to place such confidence be the same old terrible debate on returning or not returning the occupied territories, on 'Arafat's good faith...

[Netanyahu] That cannot be helped. We are facing some very serious issues. I am not talking about those linked to compliance with the Oslo agreement, they are irrelevant. 'Arafat has violated that accord so many times that we should certainly make a reassessment of it before going any further toward fulfilling our commitments. Indeed the accord itself provides for that. Underlying everything is the problem of Palestinian independence and Israel's security. Borders, water, a neighbor's good faith... Why should every issue that was open before Rabin's death be now closed?

[Nirenstein] Do you really mean what you said, Mr. Netanyahu? Has nothing changed since Rabin's assassination? Has your view of the peace process, of 'Arafat, remained unchanged?

[Netanyahu] Only six days ago, thus after the shooting, 'Arafat made a speech in Gaza proclaiming his will to "continue the battle down to the last inch of Palestinian soil." Not down to the last inch of West Bank soil. And nobody can pretend not to know that when 'Arafat says Palestine he means Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Acre, Ramleh...

[Nirenstein] Do you continue to strenuously oppose the peace process? Do you not think that the whole of Israel, the area's entire history, is urging you to change direction?

[Netanyahu] The peace process is only a verbal expression. Yes, a process is ongoing, but we are too quick to call it "peace process." Autonomy for them, security for us: These two terms are still very uncertain.

[Nirenstein] Do you not fear a fratricidal war?

[Netanyahu] The Jews went through terrible rifts, murders, and betrayals in their first 2,000 years of history. They are used to that. Because of those things they almost lost their identity, they almost disappeared from the face of the earth. Now, a mere 50 years after the foundation of the State [of Israel], they still have some crucial issues to address: Borders, a capital city, their very identity. The debate cannot be avoided, everybody must understand that. But nobody must lose his legitimacy.

[Nirenstein] The trouble is that a part of those who belong to the Jewish faith, the rabbis of the most extreme religious zionism, are working for a policy of division.

[Netanyahu] Woe betide those who point the finger at religion and the religious as a whole. That is profoundly unjust, it is madness even. The extremists are a mere handful of men.

[Nirenstein] Organized in terrorist groups?

[Netanyahu] I would not go that far. But I have said that the man who killed Rabin may not have acted alone. Be that as it may, there are laws to combat crime. I am very much opposed to changing the laws, to risk criminalizing opinions. People must be free to express themselves.

[Nirenstein] Do you not feel the need to do penance at least for some small thing, some mistaken act or word?

[Netanyahu] Of course, we could always do better than we do. But that applies to everybody. Some of those who point the finger at us are the same people who used to shout: Begin, Murderer. Let each man be his own judge.

Netanyahu Urges Action on Anti-Likud Incitement

TA1511114795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud must launch a counterattack to incitement against it, party leader Binyamin Netanyahu told the faction yesterday.

"In the eye of the storm we decided to show restraint. Today we need to set out on a to-the-point attack on the irresponsible incitement against us," he said. "We have done our best to hold a serious political discussion."

Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav said the party had condemned extremist statements and actions at every opportunity.

"However, we believe the government's policy endangers the existence of the State of Israel and if we were not to say so, we would not be fulfilling our obligations. During the seven days of mourning, they tried to spread a blood libel about us."

MK [Knesset member] Ze'ev Begin quoted an interview with Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish on Friday [10 November] in which he reportedly said: "If the Likud joins in the game, good. If it lifts up its head, we will not be quiet and will blame Netanyahu for the murder." Begin called for the Likud to take action against Harish and bring the issue before the Knesset Ethics Committee.

New Right-Wing Party 'Yamin Yisra'el' Registered

TA1411191195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new hardline right-wing party was officially registered today. Its name is Yamin Yisra'el [Israel's Right] and it will run in the next elections. The party registrar rejected three appeals submitted against the registration of the new party claiming that it was a racist party that represents illegal positions.

Yamin Yisra'el was established by Knesset Member Sha'ul Gutman, who split from the Moledet faction, and Miryam Lapid from Qiryat Arba', seen here filing by late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's coffin.

The new party's platform advocates the transfer of Arabs and insists that any partition of Eretz Yisra'el be prohibited by law. The party also calls for the building of a Jewish temple on the Temple Mount. The No. 2 position in the party is held by Rahamim Kohen, a former Kakh movement executive.

Palestinians Said Seeking To Evade Covenant Amendment

TA1411163195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General Moshe Ya'alon, the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, today told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Palestinians are seeking a way to circumvent the Oslo agreements which stipulate the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant. Ya'alon asserted that one of the options the Palestinians were examining was the formulation of a new Palestinian Covenant. [passage omitted]

The committee members said that Maj. Gen. Ya'alon also revealed that following the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Syrian officials opined the murder could have positive results; however, most of the Arab world expressed sadness over the murder.

Peres Vows To Protect Autonomy Against Hamas

TA1411160395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] The prime minister went on to say, concerning Syria, that it was his intention to open all levels of negotiations and include all items on the agenda.

He also said that Israel had no intention of interfering with the internal Palestinian politics, but he did imply that if Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] manages to destroy the Palestinian autonomy, Israel could not stand by. He went on to say that Hamas without guns would not be Hamas, which is something that Menahem Begin said in another context once about the PLO.

Peres on Beginning Redeployment, Peace Prospects

TA1411143595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1245 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Impromptu news conference by Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres with domestic correspondents during a tour of the Janin area, near the settlement of Tzofim — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] As you all know, yesterday we concluded the first chapter of the redeployment in Judaea and Samaria, in the Janin area. Today we came to see how this chapter went, and consider how to draw the future borders, even if they are temporary. I would like, first of all, to express my appreciation to the chief of staff, the commander of the Central Command, my associate the police affairs minister, and the police commissioner for their performance of this first chapter. The implementation is a highly sensitive mixture of many political considerations and a lot of security needs. We wanted to undertake this chapter while maximizing our consideration for the needs of the population, and while being totally dedicated to issues of security, in order to allow the Palestinian population to hold their elections, scheduled for 20 January.

Clearly, this is an unprecedented experiment. It includes several elements which have not yet been completed: One issue is the bypass roads; only a few have been built, and I hope the others will be completed according to plan. On the one hand, we wish to provide the residents with roads on which they can travel without friction; on the other hand, we plan to build industrial parks here — one, probably, in Janin and the other in Tulkarm — to provide work places. Freedom of movement and employment are two very essential elements of the implementation of the redeployment.

These days, we are starting the second stage of the redeployment. As you all know, we are supposed to end the redeployment by the end of 1995, with the exception of Hebron where it will take longer.

[Peres follows his live statement in Hebrew with a similar statement in English. In the English version, Peres says "we told the Palestinians that we intend to draw the necessary conclusions from the first attempt to realize the agreement." Later he adds that security matters were observed, "while not missing the main purpose, which is to enable the Palestinians to go and have free elections, democratic elections, on 20 January."]

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, you have voiced reservations about the separation plan proposed in the past by the police minister. Will there now be a different emphasis which will be more compatible with your approach? For example, no fence [words indistinct]?

[Peres] I have no reservations. I have a keen desire to learn. My job requires that I thoroughly study the issues in a serious manner. Today I had my first lesson and it was a good one. However, this was not my last lesson and we will conduct a series of discussions before we reach any conclusions.

[IDF Radio political correspondent Udi Segal] Mr. Peres, in addition to the details of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria, could you reveal something about your preparations for the formation of the new government?

[Peres] I cannot begin any preparations before the president entrusts me with forming the government and he has not yet assigned me this task.

[Segal] Nevertheless, what is going through your mind?

[Peres] My mind is open to many things.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Peres, yesterday you pointed out that there were still four and a half years in which to complete the peace process before the year 2000. Does this mean that as far as you are concerned, there is no haste or urgency to conclude the negotiations with Syria prior to the 1996 elections.

[Peres] Even if we complete the negotiations, the implementation process will take longer. Second, there is not only Syria but also Lebanon. It is not even just Syria and Lebanon. We have very serious problems with regard to water planning and tourism in the Middle East — what I like to refer to as the new Middle East. I do not believe that peace can exist just along the borders. We need peace throughout the entire region and not merely peace lines. This will obviously take a little bit longer.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, what barriers will be placed between the Palestinian towns that the IDF is currently evacuating, such as Tulkarm and Qalqilyah, and the Sharon area or Kefar Saba?

[Peres] The question is whether or not there must be a barrier? Generally speaking, however, our security forces will be positioned along the line. The question of which measures they will prefer — fences, guard patrols, or a totally different relationship — must be carefully evaluated and the matter will be properly examined.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Peres, on the basis of the learning tour you carried out today, what security problems do we face in general?

[Peres] The problem is how to define the line separating the Palestinian autonomy and Israel — and I did not call it a border — in a new format that cannot be taken from any other location in the world. I have clearly noted that we will need bypass roads and industrial parks — because the economic situation has an indubitable effect on security. The level of employment can sometimes influence the level of violence. This must be studied. The first chapter has ended very successfully and we must carefully consider the continuation.

IDF Transfers Control of al-Fari'ah Prison to PA

TA1511115395 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 15 Nov 95 p 1

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday transferred control of al-Far'iah prison, situated near the al-Fari'ah refugee camp in Nabulus District, to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Military sources reported that the transfer took place without disturbances. The IDF had evacuated the prison several weeks ago.

Nation Said To Agree to Arab Refugee Return

TA1511120395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel has unofficially agreed to accept tens of thousands of Palestinians to resettle within the Green Line as part of a solution to the refugee problem, a Palestinian negotiator said yesterday.

Salim Tamari, who represents the Palestinians during the multilateral negotiations on refugees, told a workshop forum at Haifa University that the fate of Palestinian refugees has been discussed between PLO envoys and both Israeli officials and academics close to their government. He did not identify the Israelis.

"It has been raised in bilateral talks and the need for symbolic return has been accepted by Israeli authorities as long as it comes under the title of family reunification," Tamari said. "We're talking about tens of thousands of people."

But a security official said that while the government has agreed to the entry of thousands of Palestinians from abroad into the territories, he does not know of any contacts regarding refugees being eventually allowed to resettle within the Green Line.

Shin Bet Head Assumes Full Responsibility

TA1411171795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Report by Knesset correspondent Hayim Hecht — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, a subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee heard a briefing from the Shin Bet head on the circumstances of the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin. The committee was also briefed by Rafi Malka, a member of the Shin Bet investigation committee.

Knesset members who attended the discussion said that they received the impression that the Shin Bet had presented them with every piece of information in its possession, hiding nothing. The Shin Bet heads fully assumed the responsibility for the failure, including them being over the police, who were supposed to clear the parking area at the front of the Tel Aviv city hall where Rabin's car was parked. Despite the fact that the police failed to establish a sterile area as ordered, and that the policeman who was supposed to man the barrier through which Yig'al 'Amir entered the area was not in place, the Shin Bet has taken full responsibility upon itself.

The matter will be further examined by the state commission of inquiry, headed by Justice Me'ir Shamgar.

Paper Urges Shin Bet Head To Resign

TA1411155995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 95 p B1

[Editorial: "Personal Responsibility"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The week-long investigation into the assassination of the prime minister has been revealing details about the circumstances of the murder which, when pieced together, point to a serious intelligence and operational fiasco. The investigation shows that the prime minister was not assassinated by an incited citizen who operated alone, but by an assassin who apparently was part of an organization of religious extremists that hoarded explosives and weapons in various places and planned a series of terrorist attacks against both Jews and Arabs, including the explosion of a car bomb in a populated location in the territories.

The existence of such a group, which is in one way or another related to the radical organization EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] (a group known to the Shin Bet), eluded the security authorities although it had been active for almost two years. In light of the atmosphere of incitement and growing political tension, one would have expected the Shin Bet to treat more seriously specific (partial) information obtained from a man who came forward of his own free will about a conspiracy to kill the prime minister. This failure, coming as it does on the heels of other disclosures, casts a serious shadow on the Shin Bet's action to prevent Jewish terror.

The intelligence fiasco looks even more serious when one remembers the warnings made by the head of the Shin Bet himself to the prime minister only a few months ago, when he asked Rabin's permission to meet Knesset members and President 'Ezer Weizman in a bid to persuade them to lower the tone of the public rhetoric for fear that an incited Jewish extremist might interpret it as a call to assassinate state leaders. If the head of the Shin Bet was so aware of the danger, it is hard to understand why this concern was not reflected in the actions of his subordinates and why the intelligence and VIP protection units did not exercise a level of alertness and preparedness commensurate with the concern of their chief.

The head of the Shin Bet has been in office only eight months, and in this period the Shin Bet scored quite a few successes in thwarting Arab terrorist activities; he may yet score additional professional achievements. There is also truth to the argument that the previous head of the Shin Bet, Ya'aqov Peri, who served in this post seven years, bears partial responsibility for the fiasco. In spite of all this, and despite the fact that the current head of the Shin Bet could have excelled in his job in the future had it not been for the assassination of the prime minister, the consequence of a fiasco of such dimensions can only be the resignation of the man in charge of the failed organization.

The demand for his resignation does not attest to a "witch hunt," as the head of the Shin Bet told the cabinet ministers, but such a step follows from the severity of the event and the heavy responsibility entrusted to a man in his position. The head of the Shin Bet need not wait for the commission of inquiry to tell him to go home, seeing that the Shin Bet's failure with regard to concepts, preventive intelligence, and protection in Malkhey Yisra'el Square and the bungled evacuation of the wounded Yitzhaq Rabin to hospital is already evident and indisputable.

The Shin Bet needs to undergo a fundamental change in concept as a result of the need to protect democracy from right-wing-religious terror and to continue to fight Arab terror. The commission of inquiry could set out guidelines to this effect and point to past errors, but such a fundamental change must be conducted by someone who in no way shares, either directly or indirectly, responsibility for the fiasco.

Police Believe 3 Suspects Planned Assassination

TA1411190895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Among police investigators, there is a growing belief that only three people and no more were involved in planning the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The other detainees are suspected of belonging to an underground organization that has targeted Arabs. The remand of Mikha'el Epstein was extended today by an additional three days.

Our police affairs correspondent Yosi Endor reports that in its request today to extend the suspect's remand, the police did not claim that the suspect knew about the plans to assassinate the prime minister. Epstein is nevertheless suspected of membership in an organization which was described by the police representative as the most serious ever discovered in Israel.

A representative of the Israel Police National Unit for Investigation of Serious Crimes, asserted that the suspect knew about the weapons that were found in the possession of the organization's other members.

Court Issues Detention Orders for 2 Kakh Activists

TA1511080595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court has issued 48-hour detention orders for Kakh activists Barukh Marzel and No'am Federman. The police told the judge that the warrants are necessary because the two have been violating the previous order against them, which limited their movement.

Commentary Views Assassination, U.S. Hypocrisy

TA1411151495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 95 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Hypocrisy Washington Style"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Until 10 days ago, that is, until the assassination in Yitzhaq Rabin Square, Congressman Michael Forbes, a freshman Republican from New York, was the nightmare of peace advocates in Washington. An aide to Senator Alfonse D'Amato who joined Congress a year ago, he took the most extreme position among the opponents of the Rabin government's policy.

Despite requests, almost pleading, by Israeli representatives, Forbes would every other day come up with original ideas that hindered the enactment of the law on aid to the PLO, prolonged the closure of the PLO office in Washington, and increased the embarrassment of the peace camp.

On Saturday 4 November, before Rabin's blood in the square had dried, a dramatic turnabout occurred in Forbes' view of the peace process. The change was so acute that he could not wait until the weekend was over. That very same evening he took pen in hand and composed a letter "celebrating" Rabin's deeds to bring a stable and durable peace to the nation.

His letter included a promise that henceforth he would wholeheartedly support the peace process and extending aid to the PLO. He sealed the envelopes himself and sent them to Shim'on Peres, Itamar Rabinovich, and Newt Gingrich.

Extreme right-wing (and cynical?) congressmen hastened to swear that their hands had not spilled the blood. Bob Dole (the Senate's Republican majority leader and the leading conservative candidate for the presidency) and Jesse Helms (chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee) did not want to miss the ride President Bill Clinton offered them on his plane to express "bipartisan support for Rabin and his legacy."

Less than a week before the assassination Dole was asked, on Rabin's behalf, to bring his influence to bear on Helms not to renew the law banning contacts with and aid to the PLO. He was not particularly impressed by the prime minister's entreaty or by the State Department's warnings that the closure of the PLO office in Washington humiliated the PLO and played into the hands of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. "Humiliation is the name of the game," an old-time Washington adviser told me then. He forgot to mention hypocrisy.

Two weeks before the assassination, Dole and Gingrich forced Rabin to applaud the following words by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert: "Your determined resolve to relocate the embassy to Jerusalem reaffirms your understanding that peace lies in sincere recognition of the historical significance Jerusalem has for us."

Yitzhaq Rabin never asked them to get involved with the issue of Jerusalem, and even hinted that he did not approve of them playing games with the embassy.

Nevertheless, the Republicans insisted on presenting the legislation to the hordes of Jewish functionaries and tycoons upon their arrival at the rotunda to attend the "Jerusalem 3000" celebration. This was an exceptional opportunity to embarrass the Clinton Administration, enrage the Arabs, and crush Rabin in a bear hug. Alex Goldfarb could learn a lesson or two from them.

If something does not change in the Jews-Congress-Israel relationship, it would be a safe bet to assume that at the end of the mourning period — and the deferment Yig'al 'Amir provided to the PLO office in Washington — the peace process will go back to being a ball game in one of the most cynical cities in the world. It is not for nothing that the administration insists that the law redefining the terms for extending aid to and continuing the dialogue with the Palestinians should remain in effect 18 months, while Congress insists that it expire on 1 November 1996; that is, a few days before the presidential and congressional elections.

There is no better proof that Henry Kissinger's assertion that Israel's foreign policy hinges on its domestic policy also applies to the United States.

Hiding behind the "using the U.S. taxpayer's money" slogan the U.S. legislators turned the $500 million that the administration promised to give to the Palestinian Authority over five years into a bargaining chip in domestic politics, with the dialogue with the PLO merely being a "bonus" in this game. The unique U.S. habit of monitoring "the PLO's compliance with the agreements" introduced Congress to the worst of Jewish and Israeli politics. Israeli and Palestinian officials became the victim in the showdown between Congress and the administration and of local-Jewish politics.

There is nothing wrong with enlisting the (temporary) feeling of guilt and shame on Capitol Hill and in the Jewish lobby to promote the policies of the Israeli and U.S. Governments. In his speech (which will be broadcast via satellite) to the Jewish Federation in Boston this coming Thursday, Peres must remind them that when it really wants to Congress can almost unanimously pass a law pertaining to Jerusalem, even in contravention of the Israeli prime minister's position.

The PLO office in Washington was closed down and the aid to the peace process got stuck against the prime minister's wishes, only because the Jewish majority abandoned the field to a vociferous and enterprising right-wing minority. Liberal Jewish intellectuals simply forgot to write their congressmen.

An article published last week in a Jewish paper in Long Island (the district heavily populated by Jews where Forbes hails from) quoted an Israeli source describing Forbes' conduct as "hypocrisy, to say the least." Somebody reminded Forbes that the pro-Israeli lobby knows how to deal with politicians who harass Israel (see the case of Senator Percy). This was the first time that the peace camp even began to take off its kid gloves. It should not be the last time.

MK's Submit Bill To Grant Citizenship to Pollard

TA1511114295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A bill calling on Interior Minister Ehud Baraq to grant Jonathan Pollard Israeli citizenship was submitted to the Knesset this week. The bill was proposed by 80 MKs [Knesset members] from both right- and left-wing parties, headed by MK Rehav'am Ze'evi [Moledet].

It says Pollard should receive citizenship as a token of gratitude for his activities on behalf of the security of the state.

Khaddam on al-Asad, Peace Process, Amman Summit

JN1411153595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership of Syria provided it, for the first time, with a far-reaching strategy. This is because President al-Asad is highly qualified for leadership. President al-Asad can make the right decision at the right time. He is a farsighted leader.

In a comprehensive political interview with TISHRIN on the silver jubilee of the glorious Corrective Movement, Khaddam said: Talking about President al-Asad requires volumes. He is a tolerant, loving, loyal, and affectionate person. He is a matchless leader who has the ability to analyze and draw conclusions. This enabled him to foresee the future and its developments and to take the initiative.

Speaking about the factors that led to the launching of the Corrective Movement, Khaddam said: There are many elements, including differences over the meaning of the revolution, the achievement of the party's objectives, how to run the state and manage the domestic front, as well as the status of the people. The theory of President al-Asad stemmed from the premise of bolstering national unity, achieving social and economic development, and pursuing an Arab policy that mobilizes capabilities in the face of Israeli aggression. The party conflict had to be settled to spare the country any dangers. On 16 November 1970, the conflict was over and a new stage began characterized by stability and prosperity, under President al-Asad's leadership.

Khaddam added: Syria today is completely different from what the situation was 25 years ago. It managed to face difficulties and overcome challenges, thanks to its enlightened leadership that takes into consideration all the domestic, Arab, and international conditions. Syria did this also by virtue of the cohesion between the leadership and the people. Thanks to the leading role played by the party, our ship, steered by its captain, managed to reach the shore safely.

Khaddam said Syria has a great responsibility at this stage when some Arabs have lost their pan-Arab values and the sense of danger to the homeland. This requires searching for new methods to change the general Arab climate and to stop the deterioration which is used by Israel to achieve its objectives. Israel wants to transform itself from a military barrack in the region into an economic, military, and political power that dominates the entire region.

Replying to a question on the separate agreements signed by some Arab parties with Israel, Khaddam said: Separate agreements have added extra strength to the Zionist project, in view of the gains it achieved and the losses incurred by the Arab side. Under the Oslo accord, Israel got recognition, peace, and security. It also got the right of sovereignty and control over the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as an indirect recognition of Jerusalem as its capital by some Arab parties that deal with it. In addition, Israel divided the Palestine question.

Khaddam added: This stage clearly revealed the threats of the Zionist plan, at a time when some Arabs are suffering from disintegration. It is regrettable and painful that some Arabs think that their security and existence are linked to foreigners and that the road to those foreigners goes through Israel. Some of those Arabs think that their ties with Israel will provide them with solutions to their economic and political problems. Those people do not know that the security that is not provided by people will not be provided by foreigners, regardless of the concessions they may offer to foreigners.

Regarding the Amman summit and its results, Khaddam said: The Amman summit is like the Casablanca summit. Their objective is to secure a leading role for Israel in the region, and to pave the way for the Zionist plan to transform the identity of the Arab region into a geographical identity, not a pan-Arab one. At the same time, Israel maintains its racist identity. What draws attention is that some Arabs who have participated in both summits wanted to pave the way for Israel while it is still occupying Arab territories and usurping Arab rights. The enemy has become closer than the brother, something which is against the Arab nation's nature.

Answering a question on the belief by some Arab regimes that rapprochement with Israel will bring security to these regime, the vice president said: We must know who threatens who. Who threatens an Arab country which is thousands of kilometers from Israel? Can Israel provide security to this country? If we put geography aside and took any Arab country whether it is far from or close to Israel, we should look at the threatening side, is it an internal one? If it is so, then external security cannot bring internal security. In fact, it further complicates it. The large powers themselves cannot guarantee the security of their forces abroad. This is in addition to that Israel itself suffers from internal security problems. Rabin's assassination is an example of this.

He added: However, if the threat was an external one, and let us say by an Arab country against another, then involving the Israeli factor in the Arab equation will further complicate the situation and lead to a change in the nature of Arab stands and relations. The foreigner does not provide us with security free of charge. The foreigner does not provide us with security unless its interests and strategy are promoted.

Concerning the peace process on the Syrian track, Khaddam said: Despite Syria's clear stand, the Israelis refuse to clearly accept to withdraw to the 4-June lines. This is on one hand. On the other hand, despite agreement on the general principles on security arrangements through the Americans, they insisted on maintaining their presence through warning stations. This conflicts with the principle of full withdrawal and equal security arrangements. Despite this, Syria is committed to continuing the peace process in accordance with the principles and bases on which it was launched.

Answering a question on the Congress' decision to move the U.S. embassy to occupied Jerusalem, Khaddam pointed out: The seriousness of this decision lies in that the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict has become part of the U.S. domestic policy in a situation where the Jewish community controls the Congress, the majority of whose members give predominance to Israel's interests over their country's interests. What makes the situation more serious is that the U.S. Constitution does not allow the U.S. President to veto a decision issued by the two thirds majority of Congress, something which makes the situation extremely serious, paralyzes the U.S. Administration, and weakens its role as an honest broker.

On developments in the situation in Lebanon, the vice president said: Lebanon has overcome the major axes of its crisis. The civil war is over, and the stage of bolstering unity has begun.

Regarding the talk about a conspiracy to partition Iraq, he said: Iraq, just as any other part of the Arab homeland, is targeted. Israel seeks to establish a regional bloc under its leadership which harms some Arab sides, including Iraq, in order to control Iraq's oil, to get closer to the Iranian border, to besiege the Gulf oil, and to transfer the Palestinians from Palestine to Iraq.

Al-Asad Meet's Egypt's Musa; Musa Departs

JN1411164795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Badr Hammam, assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs, at al-Rawdah Palace at 1245 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egypt's Ambassador in Damascus Mahmud 'Ali Shukri.

Al-Shar' met with 'Amr Musa this morning. Talks dealt with the situation in the region, developments in the peace process, Barcelona conference, and relations between the sister countries, Syria and Egypt.

'Amr Musa left Damascus this evening after a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry staff, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy's staff.

Afghanistan

Taleban Commander Killed; Pakistan Blamed

LD1411180195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1600 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A famous commander has been killed during Taleban's internecine clashes in Zabol. 'Abdol Salam Roketi has been killed in clashes which have been going on for some time in Shajoi District in Zabol [words indistinct].

'Abdol Salam Roketi has had disagreements with the Pakistani authorities for several years. [Words indistinct] he was forced to take a number of Pakistani militias prisoner. Now Benazir Bhutto's intelligence service has killed him, using the Taleban. It is said that his death has led to the intensification of fighting, in which several supporters of the Taleban and of Roketi have been killed.

Explosions on Helicopters Kill Taleban Leaders

LD1411161695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, two helicopters of the Taleban group exploded in the air, killing all passengers and crewmen.

According to news sources, a number of senior Taleban leaders and commanders were killed in the incident which occurred following explosions aboard the helicopters. According to some reports, Mullah Mohammad Omar, the leader of Taleban group, was among the dead.

Taleban Withdraws Artillery From Maydan Shahr

LD1411155795 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul. Nov. 14, IRNA — The Afghan opposition group, Taleban, is withdrawing heavy artillery from the provincial city of Maydan Shahr in Vardak Province, 40 kms southwest of Kabul. This came after the defeat of the Taleban and the government forces closing on the city, said an Afghan government source here Tuesday. The source at Afghanistan's Defense Ministry added that government forces in the third stage of their military operation in the region, captured mountains overlooking Maydan Shahr in the northern and eastern parts of the city, making the city prone to military attacks. The source went on to say that in an attack Tuesday morning, scores of Taleban militants were killed or wounded and eight others were captured.

According to the same source, government jet fighters bombarded Taleban positions in Maydan Shahr and Chahar Asiab in several sorties, inflicting casualties and damage on the opposition forces. he did not elaborate on casualties of the government forces.

The Afghan government forces have advanced by at least 10 kms in southwestern sector of Kabul in the past three days, capturing a dozen villages and the surrounding mountains to reach the hills overlooking Maydan Shahr.

Armed Forces Seize Militia Positions in North

LD1411172695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Eleven militia fortifications were captured by the Islamic Army forces in Sikotal, Samangan. Quoting sources in the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR reports that following up their success in Sholgara District, where dozens of villages were cleared up, this morning the mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces captured 11 militia positions in Sikotal, which [words indistinct] with the north of the country. During the operation a large number of militia were killed and a number of others injured, and two tanks were destroyed.

As a result of this operation, commanded by Ata Mohammad, dozens of villages were cleared up. The militia have lost their morale.

Repulse Taleban Attack East of Kabul

LD1411175095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Taleban attack in Khord Kabul was defeated last night. An Armed Forces source told BAKHTAR that the Taleban mounted an attack on the Islamic Army forces' positions in Khord Kabul, where it faced strong resistance from the Islamic Army. The attack was repulsed as quickly as it had started. As a result, heavy loss of life has been inflicted on the hireling Taleban. No report has been received about the precise number of Taleban casualties.

India

Article Criticizes U.S Official's Kashmir Stance

BK081106 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 4 Nov 95 p 6

[Article by Madhusoodan Anand]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, known for her anti-India stance, has again opened a salvo against India. Currently visiting Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, Ms. Robin Raphel has again argued against the merger of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union. Two years ago she declared Jammu and Kashmir to be a disputed territory and questioned its formal merger with India. Robin Raphel is a close friend of Pakistan. She has close contact with Pakistan's bureaucracy and its Army. Last year, she visited Pakistan clandestinely to ensure the enforcement of the Dixon Plan in Kashmir. Sir Owen Dixon was the joint representative of India and Pakistan to the United Nations in 1950. Hoping to solve the Kashmir dispute he was the first to suggest the division of Kashmir between India and Pakistan. It was said that Nehru was ready to discuss the proposal but the premier of Pakistan at the time, Liyaquat Ali Khan, rejected it outright.

Today, even if Pakistan agrees to discuss this proposal, it would never be acceptable to India, Since the struggle between India and Pakistan during 1947-48, conditions have altered drastically. Pakistan has even allowed China to occupy a part of Kashmir and now Kashmir's strategic importance has become vital to both China and Pakistan. Last year's visit by Robin Raphel did not bear any fruit. The media of both India and Pakistan impressed upon their respective governments not to accept the 45 year-old Dixon Plan. After this fiasco, Ms. Robin Raphel should have stopped all activity in this direction but because she had been bitten by the Pakistan-adoring bug, she continues to try to deliver Kashmir to Pakistan. Her aim is either to hand Kashmir over to Pakistan exclusively or to make Kashmir a free state and have the United States conduct its affairs by means of a remote control.

U.S. views on Kashmir have never been favorable to India. During the 1950's, whenever this question was raised in the UN Security Council, the United States always sided with Pakistan, but by using its veto the Soviet Union always came to India's rescue. After the 1962 Chinese aggression against India, the United States again tried to raise the Kashmir issue and questioned the merger of Kashmir with India. With the resolute stand taken by India and also owing to India's reputation in the international community, Pakistan could neither succeed in snatching Kashmir from India nor make it an international issue. Even an attempt by the United States to intervene in the Kashmir affair could not bear any tangible results over the last four and half decades.

At the end of the Cold War, hopes began to surface that the United States would no longer give priority to Pakistan because of the ever-changing circumstances in which the old groups and alliances had lost their significance. The United States continued, howver, to favor Pakistan and its utterances that were distinctly anti-Indian. It may be recalled that the letters were dispatched by the U.S. President in December 1993 to the Kashmiri and Khalistani Organizations based in the United States concerning the so-called violations of human rights in India's provinces of Punjab and Kashmir. After India reacted sharply against it and after the Indian High Commissioner in the United States lodged strong official protest, attempts were made to water down the case. It still raised the issue of human rights with the governments of different countries, which was a valid right of the United States as it was deeply concerned about this issue. In this context we would then like to ask why the United States is not raising the issue with Pakistan or China, which both seem to violate this right with impunity. Why does it remain quiet when human rights are being violated daily in these two countries?

Although the United States has emerged as the largest investor in India, it continues to pick on India concerning one issue or another; for example, now it is the human rights issue and India's nuclear policy. This superpower also pressured Russia to cancel its cryogenic engine deal with India. It was United States that pressured us to stall our "Prithvi" and "Agni" missiles program. Now it has whipped us on the Super-301 issue and insisted that we not transfer nuclear technology to Iran. It has also tried to corner us and force us to sign the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty]. The United States has continued to conveniently ignore statements by Pakistan's leaders and military officials that Pakistan possesses the nuclear bomb or is on the verge of making it. The U.S. Administration has also deliberately ignored information given to it by its own intelligence agency, the CIA, that Pakistan has already received M-11 missiles from China. Now the Clinton administration's decision to deliver deadly weapons worth $370 million to Pakistan has transcended all limits. Recently President Clinton sent a letter to our Prime Minister emphasizing that this delivery was not likely to disturb the military equilibrium between India and Pakistan. Although our Prime Minister vehemently opposes this decision, the United States does not care.

It is now apparent that despite the end of the Cold War, U.S. priorities and interests in South Asia have not altered at all. On the pretext of helping its friend, the United States is providing arms to Islamabad. A lot of war material is being exported by this superpower to make Pakistan emerge a stronger nation and fortify its position vis-a-vis the Kashmir issue. This attitude is so blatant that the United States is not prepared to declare Pakistan a terrorist state even when its own intelligence agencies and other organizations have irrefutably proven its complicity in fanning terrorism. Last year, during the summer, when our Prime Minister visited the United States, the U.S. President told him that since Pakistan had drastically reduced economic and military aid to the terrorists in the Valley of Kashmir, there was no need to declare it a terrorist state, but the U.S. President indirectly admitted to Pakistan's helping the terrorists.

Contradicting this behavior is the magnanimity of the Indian Government, which readily permitted the U.S. Ambassador, Frank Wisner, to go to Kashmir and meet the Hurriyat leaders. It is widely believed that it was upon Mr. Wisner's advice that the Indian Government gave permission to the Hurriyat leaders to attend the session in Casablanca of the Islamic Conference Organization. The U.S. ambassador has continued to praise India's transparent policy towards Kashmir. Diplomatic circles are also advancing a theory that India plans to hold Assembly elections in Kashmir only because United States is openly supporting it. They also claim that the United States is pressuring Pakistan not to create disturbances in the Kashmir elections. Although it is not known whether the Indian Government has received any such assurance from the United States, it could not be relied upon in light of Ms. Robin Raphel's latest statement. If elections are to be held in Kashmir, they ought to be held on their own strength. Had the United States been serious about Kashmir elections, it would not have allowed Robin Raphel to come up with such an anti-Indian statement, especially at this point when the menace of terrorism has been reduced in Kashmir and conditions are becoming more conducive for holding free and fair elections.

As a matter of fact, Robin Raphel is a very important link to U.S. diplomacy concerning India. She is in charge of the U.S. Department of State's South Asian affairs. Therefore, her statement concerning Kashmir reflects the view of the United States and demonstrates that there is no change in it. Only U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner's attitude gives the impression that there is a distinct change in U.S. views and that United States really wants elections to be held in Kashmir. But Robin Raphel's latest statement calling Kashmir a disputed territory has questioned the validity of these elections. If Kashmir itself is a disputed territory, how could the results of the Assembly elections be called fair? In other words, the United States itself is now questioning the validity of these elections. Which side is going to derive the maximum advantage of this U.S. decision? Obviously, Pakistan!

It is now clear that one of the objectives of the U.S. Kashmir policy is not to appear anti-Pakistan. Having crippled Iraq, the United States now realizes more and more that Iran's growing influence might create problems for it. Pakistan, having received the signal from its boss, has also intensified activities aimed at overthrowing the anti-Iran government in Afghanistan. The Muslim fundamentalist organization Taleban (until just two years ago a virtually unknown group) is now tormenting the Borhanoddin Rabbani government, This group enjoys the support of Pakistan, which manages affairs there through its intelligence agency, ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence]. Taleban has many provinces of Afghanistan under its control. Pakistan and the United States want to form a Taleban government in Afghanistan so the newly emerging Central Asian Republics will remain under its leadership and will not fall under the influence of Iran. The United States wishes to keep all West Asian countries, barring Iraq and Iran, under its thumb. To achieve this objective the U.S. leadership is even prepared to accept the fundamentalist approach of the Taleban, instead of the Khomenyi-brand of bigoted Muslim extremism, although the former group's beliefs do not conform with the values of the United States. In this U.S. plan it is only Pakistan that can render useful support, hence the blatant U.S. support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. The sole purpose of Robin Raphel's visits to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India is to make her country play a decisive role in maintaining its hold over the entire region. It is apparent that to serve its national interests the United States has reduced the principles it formulated to pieces. Pakistan, which had sanctions imposed upon it and its weapons supply stopped, because of its questionable nuclear intentions, is now being flooded with the latest and most lethal weapons on the pretext that resumption of military aid would help United States pressure Pakistan against making the nuclear bomb. What strange logic! It is solely because of its national interest that United States has no choice but to weaken India and question the status of Kashmir. Like a shrewd diplomat Robin Raphel now realizes that angering Pakistan at this juncture is likely to prove damaging to the national interests of the United States. So despite Ambassador Frank Wisner's repeated expressions of satisfaction at India's beginning the political process in Kashmir, Ms. Raphel will never allow the results of the Kashmir elections to favor India. This U.S. official has now raised the question of Kashmir's formal merger with India in order to create indecision in the minds of prospective voters. Now the question is: Why should such a U.S. official be accorded any type welcome in India. If we know that she has an uncompromising position and firm views necessitated by the national considerations of United States, what is the sense in starting a dialogue? Why must we speak to someone who is out to damage our interests? When the demand for a plebiscite in Kashmir was raised as a UN resolution the pre-condition that Pakistan must vacate that area was implemented. Now the Indian Government must reiterate this pre-condition to emphasize that the portion of Kashmir in Pakistan's possession is actually India's territory, and hence Robin Raphel must stop calling Kashmir a disputed territory. That Kashmir is an integral part of India is an established fact now.

In fact, after the formal merger of Kashmir with India it was Pakistan that snatched part of it by force. Hence diplomatic propriety and etiquette raised no question of India's integrity and solidarity, especially by a visiting foreign dignitary. Who does not know the part of U.S. history that asserts that the United States formed its federation after claiming the rebellious southern states after the Civil War? Did we ever question the validity of that federation of the United States? Now our leaders must stop taking insults heaped on our nation by foreign dignitaries, however important he or she may be. If this anti-India United States official possesses any sense, she must return to her native country with a loud and clear message that any attempt to insult India shall not be tolerated by the people of this country. Enough is enough!

Commentary on Consequences of Pakistani Coup Plot

BK1511073395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Commentary by Abha Dixit]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After weeks of procrastination, the Pakistan defense minister, Aftab Shaban Mirani, finally told the Pakistan Senate that a major general, a brigadier, three colonels, and some other officers have been arrested by the military authorities for attempting to organize a coup in September last. Through this coup, they planned to eliminate the entire military leadership, as well as overthrow the government of Benazir Bhutto. The details of the coup and its plotters by the defense minister are significant because it is the first official comment by the government confirming stories in the Pakistan press about the scale of operations that the coup plotters had envisaged and their real objective in overthrowing the Benazir government.

The coup was led by Major General Zahirul Islam Abbasi, a former defense attache in the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, who was expelled on spying charges, and Brigadier Mustansar Billa. This group of officers, reportedly numbering 30, were also believed to have links with ex-generals and right-wing politicians. The modus operandi that the plotters were believed to have conceived included eliminating all senior commanders of the Pakistan Army during their meeting on 28 September. This was to be followed by a takeover of key government installations.

Benazir Bhutto made use of the story to improve her moderate Islamic credentials through her selective disclosure on the eve of the passage of the Brown Amendment in the U.S. Congress. The coup attempt is significant for highlighting the discontent that exists within a sizable section of the Army, which has prided itself to be disciplined and united force. Serving and retired generals tried to save the image of the Pakistan Army by underplaying the coup bid. But there is scarcely any doubt that the Army is divided between those who wanted to play a backroom driver role in politics and those who believe that the Army should be used to achieve Pakistan's aggrandizing ambitions. The coup attempt may have been foiled by a chance discovery, but the message to the establishment has been very clear. Unless the government becomes more belligerent, there will always be a brewing dissent within the extreme right-wing elements in the Armed Forces. It is to be expected that Benazir Bhutto, in a bid to pander to the right-wing groups, will increase support to Kashmiri militants and try to prevent the holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rebels Say Two Hostages Ill, One Seriously

BK1411140895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Nov 14 (AFP) — Moslem militants holding four western tourists in Kashmir for more than four months said Tuesday that two of the hostages were ill and one might not survive.

In a Urdu statement released to newspapers in Srinagar, the Al-Faran rebel group said the "two foreigners were ill for the last two months but one is serious and may not survive. If anything happens to them (the four hostages), all the responsibility will be on the Indian Government. We had given them our just demands but they (government) are delaying it," the statement said.

The captors have demanded the release of 15 jailed militants in exchange for the hostages. Indian authorities have rejected their demand and ruled out military operations to rescue the hostages.

Al-Faran kidnapped American Donald Hutchings, 42, Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, between July 4 and 8 while they were trekking near the hill resort of Pahalgam. A fifth hostage, 27-year-old Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was beheaded by the militants in August.

A senior Kashmir official said last week the hostages had no serious ailments, but previous reports said Hutchings was feared to be suffering from gangrene after developing an infection from frostbite.

The hostage crisis entered the fifth month on November 4, making it the longest period that foreigners were held in captivity by Moslem rebels in Kashmir. A former

Indian state legislator was held by militants for 364 days and released last year.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, since 1989 when separatists stepped up their bloody campaign for secession.

Contact Government Authorities

BK1411160595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has again appealed to the abductors of four foreign tourists to set the hostages free, especially the two who are reported sick. The government has offered to provide medical aid to the sick tourists. An official spokesman said in Srinagar this evening that the abductors contacted the government authorities yesterday as well as today. The spokesman hoped that the abductors would respond to the worldwide appeals and release all the hostages without any further delay.

'Mob Warfare' Feared After Businessman's Murder

BK1511081695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0428 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Madhu Nainan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bombay, Nov 15 (AFP) — The cold-blooded murder of the chief of India's first and largest private airline by gunmen late Monday night is likely to accelerate the low-intensity mob warfare in this bustling port city, police sources said.

"(The) killing is certainly part of the current gang war in the city," Bombay joint commissioner of police Ranjit Singh Sharma said.

Thakiyuddin Wahid, managing director of East West Airlines, was shot dead by four unidentified gunmen who pumped 14 bullets into his body outside his office block in the northern suburb of Bandra, as he was being driven home. He died on his way to the hospital. Wahid's murder comes about a month after top Bombay builder Omprakash Kukreja was gunned down by unknown killers in his north- east Bombay office.

Sharma said Wahid's killing would accelerate the mob warfare for control of the city between the Dubayy-based Muslim Bombay mafia boss Dawwud Ibrahim and his Hindu rivals led by Chhota Rajan and Arun Gawli, who were Ibrahim's former associates.

Kukreja, a Hindu, was allegedly killed by Ibrahim Muslim gang. Wahid, a Muslim who was supposedly close to Ibrahim, is suspected to have been gunned down by Rajan's gang as a revenge killing.

Police officials on condition of anonymity said Wahid's killing would set off a chain of reprisal killings across the city. "Wahid was quite an important man and his killing will not be left lightly. We will have to wait and see who will be the next victim," said a police official.

Sharma said none of the killers had been arrested. Police have put the city on alert and sealed off all exit points from the city immediately after the killing. "We have picked up some people for questioning and are getting some important clues. I cannot divulge more (information)," Sharma said.

Bombay's mob split on religious lines between Hindu and Muslim gangs after the March 12, 1993 serial bombings here that killed more than 300 people. Police said the bombings were organised by Dawwud Ibrahim to avenge the killings of about 2,000 Muslims here by Hindu mobs during the communal riots of December 1992 and January 1993 which followed the destruction of a 500-year-old mosque in Ayodhya.

Dawwud Ibrahim, the son of a former police constable, wrested control of the city's lucrative rackets from the Pathan mafia boss Karim Lala in the early 1980s. A series of bloody shootouts of various rival gang members put him at the top of the country's multi-million dollar business of gold, silver and narcotics smuggling rackets. Ibrahim fled to Dubayy some years back and the gang soon muscled into the lucrative property business and had several big-time developers paying them "protection money."

Dawwud Ibrahim took a severe beating after Bombay police named him the prime accused in the Bombay bomb blasts case — which is now being tried under a special court here. He has been declared a fugitive and carries a reward of 31,250 dollars on his head. Most of his Hindu associates like Chhota Rajan left him and began operating either independently or in alliance with former Hindu rivals.

Over the past two years the bloody fight for control of the city left many killed in Bombay, Kathmandu, Bangkok and Dubayy, including politicians, builders and financiers, police officials said. Sunit Khatau, who headed a venerable, century old business family that was among the early textile millowners in Bombay, was one of the victims. Khatau was killed in May 1994, as he had patronised the Arun Gawli gang at the cost of another ganglord, Amar Naik. Khatau's mill owned land worth some 100 million dollars in south-central Bombay and he had sought mafia help to coerce his workers to agree to shift to a distant location, as he wanted to sell off the property.

Iran

Commentary Views Closure of U.S. Government

NC1511080595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we heard on the news, hundreds of thousands of Federal Government employees have joined the ranks of the unemployed because of the continuation of intense disagreements between the U.S. President and Congress; many state and administrative institutions in various parts of America had to close.

In reaction to this, the U.S. President has blamed Congress for the recent disorders. In return, the heads of the two houses have blamed Bill Clinton for having intensified the row between Congress and the White House.

Stressing that he should use his legal rights, the U.S. President has said that the Republicans in Congress have put their ideology above common sense. He also pointed out that the decisions by the Republicans are sly efforts to impose their values and priorities on the American public. Meanwhile, Republican Congress leaders and party members are aiming similar accusations at the President and the Democrats.

Naturally, all these developments, and especially the current severe financial crisis, stem from the growing party rivalries that are accelerating in view of next year's elections. Although the closure of large parts of federal offices and institutions has been said to be temporary, it automatically inflicts blows from various directions on America's political and administrative structures.

Actually, the emptying of the federal reserves in America on the one hand, and the immense budget deficit and daily-increasing debts on the other hand have painted a weak picture of the U.S. Government structure at home and abroad. This picture is further weakening this country's global position and is paving the way at home for the growth of increasing opposition.

The intensification of the differences between the Republican and Democrat parties and, as a result, the intensification of the row between the White House and Congress speak of entering a phase, exit from which will not be simple, unless the current disagreements are solved in any possible way and through temporary agreements.

Actually, one can dare say that the current rare crisis has driven America to a vortex, and it will be extremely difficult to escape its negative repercussions.

U.S. Strategy Toward Iran, Example of Iraq Viewed

95LH0270A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 18 Aug 95 pp 18-20

[Report by 'Isam al-'Ayyash]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—It seems that U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to deploy a big military force in the Gulf, in response to the strong Iranian military presence there, and Congress's decision to impose a total trade embargo on Iran cannot be attributed only to the forthcoming U.S. presidential elections. The area still occupies a central position in Washington's strategy, although the end of the Cold War has drastically changed its international priorities.

In the past 40 years, U.S. leaders had focused all their attention on the danger represented by the Red Army and the means to confront it. In 1993, General Colin Powell stated: "I lived all my life fearing the outbreak of a third world war." With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the danger suddenly disappeared and the historical role of the U.S. Armed Forces collapsed. The United States had always maintained that it was threatened by the Warsaw Pact forces. Congress always showed its readiness to finance the continuous deployment of 2-3 million soldiers and supply them with an arsenal of suitable advanced weapons.

However, since the beginning of the nineties, some American representatives began demanding a considerable cut in military expenses. This has prompted military officials to look for a new target. It was difficult to specify an enemy or a group of enemies that could fulfill the role of the former Communist forces. To resolve this dilemma, U.S. strategic experts invented a new target, represented by emerging Third World countries that may possess considerable military forces and mass destruction weapons or are trying to possess them. One of these countries was Iran. According to Pentagon officials, Iran represents an increasing threat to U.S. security, and confronting it has become a strategic objective of U.S. forces.

Since 1978 when U.S. officials began showing some fear of the Islamic revolution in Iran, President Carter's administration began adopting measures to improve U.S. capability to deploy forces in the Gulf region. As part of this initiative, the "Rapid Deployment Force" was established, naval facilities were secured in the Gulf states, and military equipment was stored on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

The Western victory over Iraq in 1991 did not change the Americans' estimate of the Iranian threat to their national security, particularly as this country was trying to obtain nuclear weapons and already possesses chemical weapons. Washington thinks Iran is a major source for the spread of deadly weapons and should constantly be watched. U.S. strategists say: "While Iran is regarded as a U.S. hostile objective, it is located in an area where the United States enjoys huge military advantage. The United States can use this advantage for comprehensive geographical, political, and economic purposes. No comparable situation exists in Europe, Asia, Latin America, or Africa because U.S. power is not dominant there."

Besides the European countries' and Japan's need for energy, the U.S. options in the Gulf give the White House means of pressure, which it intends to use in the face of its allies and economic competitors—like France, Germany, and Japan—although each ally has its distinctions and calculations.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to impose a U.S. trade embargo on Iran and urge the U.S. allies to adopt a similar position will undoubtedly strain the relations between the two countries in an unprecedented manner. According to U.S. reports, Washington is seeking to topple the existing regime because Tehran has rejected any peace agreement with Israel and refused to stop its direct support to fundamentalist organizations, like the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Hizballah.

Israeli officials have provided the U.S. Administration with intelligence reports about Hamas' and Hizballah's relations with Iran. While Iran has rejected peace with Israel, it has denied lending any support to organizations considered by Washington as hostile to peace. The organizations, which are accused of terrorism, deny receiving any support from Iran. The issue, therefore, according to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "has nothing to do with sponsoring terrorism or possessing nuclear weapons, but because Tehran opposes and insists on rejecting the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO. Among the sanctions also is Washington's attempt to help Israel in its nuclear program, prevent Iran from possessing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and freeze Iranian assets of billions of dollars."

It seems that the U.S. President's decision to impose U.S. economic sanctions against Iran was not taken without due consideration. The State Department submitted a report to Clinton, recommending that total embargo be imposed on the Iranian regime and efforts be made to topple it—this means suspending oil purchases, which have reached $4.8 billion. This recommendation, which emerged as a presidential decision, bans branches of U.S. companies abroad from commercially dealing with Iran. As expected, Clinton justified this decision by accusing Iran of sponsoring, financing, and supporting international terrorism and consistently trying to obtain nuclear technology.

In this respect, there was agreement between the U.S. State Department and President Clinton and his Middle East advisers, who are mostly pro-Israel, on the need to impose a total embargo on Iran to paralyze its ability to produce nuclear weapons, as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said. The U.S. State Department suggested to President Clinton to declare such embargo last November. However, the Defense, Trade, Treasury, and Energy Departments opposed such a policy because it would primarily harm U.S. companies and allow other companies to engage in free trade with Iran.

As part of this effort, an important group of Congressmen, led by New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato, passed a bill in Congress to boycott Iran and ban U.S. companies and their foreign subsidiaries from dealing directly or indirectly with Iran, in an attempt to save the U.S. economy from unfair competition.

It is known that the United States was practically the principal trade partner of Iran, in the sense that it bought one-third of Iran's crude oil. U.S. banks were also open to Iranian commercial transactions. This situation prompted the State Department, with the support of the Jewish lobby, to propose something similar to the former Arab boycott of Israel. Clinton was reluctant to support such a proposal to avoid a confrontation with his European allies and Japan.

The alternative was to limit the boycott to U.S. companies and their foreign branches. Of course, this boycott will not affect the United States because the Iranian oil bought by U.S. companies was sold in world markets and not in the United States. Consequently, the boycott will only cost the U.S. Treasury about $400 million, which is the value of U.S. exports to Iran.

It was, therefore, a measure designed to prompt the U.S. allies to adopt a similar boycott. This strategy is gradual and progressive. It begins with low-tone threats and gradually ends with the deployment of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

Economic and diplomatic experts in European capitals agree that the U.S. trade boycott of Iran was economically ineffective and only commits Washington, because the United States adopted the decision without prior consultation with its allies. However, the European governments do not want to appear as trying to exploit the situation resulting from the U.S. boycott of Iran. They are acting in a diplomatic fashion, although their commercial ambitions are great and the opportunity is available.

Consequently, the U.S. allies have decided not to follow the U.S. example. French Prime Minister Alaine Juppe has affirmed that his country shares with the United States "many of its concerns about Iran," but it has no confidence in the usefulness of "the unilateral boycott measures." What Juppe failed to make clear was clarified by many of his assistants, who thought that there was nothing new to justify the U.S. decision. They also noted that "France maintains an independent foreign policy, and it has not officially been informed of the boycott decision against Iran."

In fact, France wants to establish broad trade relations with Iran. This is awaiting some administrative measures. France will not pay attention to international political considerations. The commercial deal the French Total Company has signed with Iranian oil companies, involving joint oil prospecting and production projects, proves that France does not want to miss the opportunity, after the U.S. Conoco Company withdrew from a contract worth $1.5 billion it had signed with Iran. Paris also agreed to reschedule half of Iran's debts and accepted a new payment schedule for about $700 million.

The French Government was scheduled to provide guarantees for its exports to Iran through the Kofas [as transliterated] Corporation but postponed its decision pending Iran's fulfillment of its obligation to repay its debts according to the new schedule. Had it not been for Iran's delay in repaying the installments on its debt, it would have been possible to say that there was nothing to obstruct trade between the two countries—trade with mostly French financing, because Iran lacks financial liquidity. This did not prevent the conclusion of a deal in 1994 between the Gas du France group and the National Iranian Gas group to exploit some natural gas fields in Iran and export some to Europe.

According to AL-HAWADITH information in Paris, France is not expected to reduce its trade with Iran, even if other Western parties responded to U.S. pressure.

It is noteworthy that France's exports to Iran in 1994 have reached about 5 billion francs (about $1 billion). France imported goods from Iran worth 8 billion francs (about $1.6 billion). This shows why France is interested in the Iranian market. The trade figures assume priority in any political consideration.

The British Government has officially expressed, through a Foreign Office spokesman, its "disagreement with Washington that the boycott would change Iran's behavior." The German economy minister also said in this regard that "this boycott is not necessary to nudge Iran toward political and democratic change." It is known that Germany is Iran's primary trade partner and is keen to safeguard its position in the Iranian market, which it entered since the shah's era. German export guarantees were suspended in 1993 only because of Iran's delinquency in repaying its debts, which have reached $5 billion, and not for any political reason. Nevertheless, the German Hermes establishment continued to provide guarantees of up to 200 million marks for German exports to Iran and up to 10 million marks for each German project.

It has become clear, therefore, that the European countries will not follow the U.S. lead this time. This means that Clinton's measures could fail and things would not go beyond the limits of U.S.-Israeli solidarity. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has expressed his satisfaction with the U.S. boycott decision, offering to place all of Israel's resources and capabilities at Washington's disposal to contain Iran. According to Rabin, Iran is sponsoring all the anti-Israeli terrorist movements, particularly Hamas. He also directly accused Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of financing the operations that take place against Israel.

However, U.S. public opinion links the boycott decision with the forthcoming U.S. elections, as the place and occasion on which the decision was announced were designed to win the votes of American Jews. This might be correct, but the history of U.S.-Iranian relations shows that there were other reasons that prompted Clinton to risk the U.S. economic cards in this political game. These reasons have not convinced the associations of business leaders in Washington, who strongly criticized the Clinton administration and described its decision as a wrong policy that will cause more damage to the United States than to Iran. In a report sent to President Clinton, they maintained that any foreign policy initiative must face the test of two questions:

1. Is there a realistic chance that the policy will achieve its desired goals?
2. Will the damage caused by this policy be greater than the benefit?

The U.S. sanctions have failed to answer these two questions. This is exactly what happened when the value of the dollar against the yen dropped—something the Clinton administration did not think about. It has led to a drop of 70 percent in the price of Iranian oil sold to Japan last year. It is clear who was the beneficiary in the end. The report noted that the psychological reaction to the new sanctions in Iran was very strong.

It is true that the Iranian political and economic situation was bad and Tehran was finding it hard to attract foreign investors before the sanctions were imposed, but the sanctions have aggravated this problem and caused the value of the Iranian currency to drop. The government was able to restore stability in the money markets, and it is currently seeking new buyers for its oil after lowering its price to win the competition.

However, in the long-term, the sanctions may affect Iran, particularly as it has suffered very much in the past few years from the big drop in oil prices, which began in 1993. In light of increased mismanagement, observers and specialists in Iranian affairs expect the Islamic Republic's economy to totally collapse. The increase in Iran's population from 30 million, when the Islamists assumed power in 1979, to more than 60 million today strengthens this possibility. Iran's oil revenues, on the other hand, dropped by half, compared with what they used to be under the shah.

Furthermore, the Iranian leadership has failed to make appropriate investment in the oil industry and the oil production installations, which are the backbone of the Iranian economy. Iran's oil production is expected to drop sharply instead of increasing to keep up with the population growth. The only solution is for the Iranian Government to invest several billions of dollars in this industry. This is impossible at this stage, because Tehran does not have the necessary money. The population increase and the production decrease have caused a big shortage in the main services, such as education, medical, health, water, electricity, and other services.

The United States is aware of these bad conditions. It chose to impose its sanctions against Iran, hoping they would increase the pressure on the government and change the regime. This means that the Clinton administration wants to apply the Iraqi scenario in Islamic Iran.

Political observers think that U.S. pressure has begun to produce results. This is evident in the violent tone of the workers' protests in Islamshehr (the first of their kind in size and number of victims since the establishment of the Islamic Revolution). They expect these protests to continue until the government reaches a real conviction that the doors of the political system must be opened to civilians, political parties must be left to function normally and properly under the Constitution, and religious leaders must retain their guiding role and abandon executive posts. The decrease in the number of religious men in the present parliament compared with the previous parliament shows that the Iranians, who elected their representatives, prefer to see civilians occupying official posts.

The fact that the Iranian rulers today appear more involved in their internal conflicts and are not paying attention to their people's problems and the high cost of living reinforces the possibility of an escalation in the "uprising." Their recent actions show that they are only trying to gain time by taking one political step forward and two steps backward. The death of Ahmad Khomeyni, who was considered an insulator between the opposing trends and factions, has increased the regime's problems and the complexity of its relations with the people. The most important factions are President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's group and revolution leader Khamene'i's group, which are involved in a direct daily confrontation.

While the conflict between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i is not new, it has never been so fierce. The proof is parliament's recent decision to revoke the overall liberal policy on which the Hashemi-Rafsanjani's five-year plan was based. This plan was accompanied by promises of great prosperity, which the people in Iran have not seen yet. Instead, Iran is facing an economic crisis. The value of the Iranian currency against the dollar dropped from 150 tuman a year ago to 300 tuman today, and it is expected to drop even further because of the U.S. boycott and the constant shortage of dollars.

Washington is naturally aware of this and is afraid that this situation could work in favor of Khamene'i. This paradox is not the first of its kind in the history of U.S.-Iranian relations. The attempt to torpedo Hashemi-Rafsanjani's economic plans is part of the struggle between him and Khamene'i, who is hoping to topple him at the appropriate time. Toppling Hashemi-Rafsanjani is taking the form of practically and effectively reducing his broad constitutional powers. No week passes without the president and prime minister abandoning one of his plans and resorting to defensive positions that greatly weaken his authority.

Parliament's recent rejection of a bill under which Qazwin would become a self-administered province instead of remaining part of Zanjan has undoubtedly been a big moral blow and setback to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He supported and sponsored this bill to appease the Farsi majority, which gathered in the central Iranian plateau after the Iraqi-Iranian war. Qazwin's request to become a self-administered province was prompted by its belief that it will not achieve economic progress as long as it has to depend on the central government. It also demanded its share in the state budget, hoping to develop its industry. Qazwin's industry prospered during the boom in real estate prices that forced a large number of businessmen and industrialists to move from Tehran to this strategically located region (about 140 km from Tehran).

This is another chapter in the rivalry between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i. However, the weak party is the president. Contrary to what people think, the price of the U.S. trade boycott of Iran will not be paid by the "hard-liners," but by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who aspires for complete cordial relations with the West. He confirmed this desire on several occasions. His five-year plans were drawn on the basis of opening the door toward Washington.

Political observers think that Iran's internal and external problems could diminish when a peace agreement is signed between Israel and Syria. They think that one of the main reasons that prompted the United States to boycott Iran and weaken it was to prevent it from playing any rejectionist role, backed by its military and economic power, as long as the Middle East peace process has not reached its desired end.

The fact is that the more Iran does not gain from the peace process the less likely it would make any concessions. Iran is not a partner or a principal player in the Arab-Israeli conflict, apart, of course, from its support for the forces that reject the peace process. Therefore, it is able to adopt principled positions and maintain these positions for a long time before it makes any concessions.

On the other hand, we must take into consideration that strong cooperation had existed for a long time between Israel and Iran during the shah's era. This relationship can be revived quickly. There is a feeling that Israel's recent intensive campaign against Iran and dragging the United States to boycott and antagonize Iran are, actually, an indirect Israeli negotiating method with Tehran to force it to change its position toward Israel. This is not impossible, if certain conditions existed, including the establishment of total peace between the Arabs and Israel. Although this will not happen today or tomorrow, it is not impossible that it will happen in the near or distant future.

Khamene'i on Role, Problems of Women

LD1311161395 Tehran IRNA in English
1600 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Monday [13 November] underlined the need to upgrade the level of women's intellects and knowledge and that of the entire society to resolve the problems faced by women and men worldwide.

The leader said that if human societies accurately recognize the position of men and women in terms of human nature and put it into practice, the divine system would prevail over the globe in which no one will suffer from injustice, no talent will be spoiled and the mankind will enjoy a balanced cooperation between women and men.

The supreme leader made the remarks in his speech to a group of women artists, specialists and officials on the eve of the auspicious birth anniversary of Hazarat Fatimah, the first lady of Islam and the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The revered ayatollah said the beauty and perfection of humanity depends on men and women being put in their true position and that according to the divine law, no women or men has the right to consider themselves superior to the opposite sex.

The leader described the statistics concerning the injustice to which women in the western world have been subjected as "shameful".

"In the western countries including the U.S. which claim to be advocates of equality between men and women, there are terrible statistics on violence against women and abuse of women.

"Therefore, women's problems cannot be solved by the solutions prescribed by the west. Depriving women of hijab (Islamic dress code) and dissuading them from observing ethical codes will only exacerbate their problems.

"On the contrary, Islam focuses on creating a healthy environment based on wisdom where injustice against the weak is not allowed," the leader of the Islamic revolution pointed out.

Ayatollah Khamene'i said the Islamic law serves to direct women and men to happiness and despite the west's hue and cry over the issue of hijab as something that violates women's freedom and rights, the issue has nothing to do with women's rights.

The loose foundation of families in western societies and reluctance of western husbands and wives to rely on each other stem from the fact that the hijab is not observed in those societies, the supreme leader noted.

Pardons 119 Women Convicts

LD1311155695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the eve of the auspicious anniversary of the birth of Her Holiness Zahra [the Prophet's daughter], God's peace be upon her, at the behest of Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the Judiciary, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, agreed to pardon of 119 women found guilty during the Islamic revolution and in the general courts. [passage omitted]

President Discusses Women's Status in Islam

LD1211180395 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA — President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Sunday [12 November] that elevating women's status through education and mass media is a principle of the Islamic Republic.

The president said Iranian women especially those in charge of women's affairs should avoid going to extremes and should act moderately in accordance with the logic of Islam, in order to remove women's isolation as inherited from the past and help them better do their household and family duties.

Meeting with officials in charge of women's affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned of the negative and dangerous consequences of the western life style of women and of ignoring the ethical code.

He said, "learning from the bitter experience of following the wrong way adopted by western women in their social life and inspired by the wise guidelines of the late Imam Khomeini and the leader of the Islamic revolution, we have adopted and launched a right and acceptable move in this respect in the past few years."

He emphasized the importance of ethical and spiritual issues and the presence of women in social activities, calling for studies to be conducted on the bitter and irreparable consequences of following western life styles.

He said the psychological, cultural and scientific promotion of Iranian women in the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution were the outcome of the attention paid to women's affairs on the basis of quranic teachings and the large amount of investments made by the government in this area.

The president expressed hope that grounds have been prepared or further promotion of women's status in Iran.

Warns Against Western Influence

LD1411113595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0752 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Address by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a ceremony for women held in Azadi Square, Tehran, marking the birth anniversary of Fatimah Zahra, daughter of Prophet Mohammad, the birth anniversary of Imam Khomeyni, and Mother's Day — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Fortunately, in the light of the Islamic revolution, Iranian women have been rescued from a serious danger that was threatening them, and have found the correct way to lead their lives.

Our hope, by making good use of these historical circumstances, is that you can act as a model and guide for women in other Islamic countries and, in later stages, for the other women of the world, showing a life worthy of women, because no model for this exists in the world today. Unfortunately, the women of the world face serious indecision and confusion in choosing the correct path.

Although the West took a significant step toward the liberation of women by rescuing women from many of the cruel conditions inherited from the Middle Ages, nevertheless, it sullied these advances with a misguided culture, which undid many of its achievements. Today, the Western powers are still trying to impose their contaminated culture on women in other parts of the world, the Third World, and especially the world of Islam.

This is why the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has found, on the basis of Islam and the Koran, a healthier and more pious path from that presented by the West — having the advantages of the changes brought about in the West, while lacking the dangerous contamination of that culture — to hold up as a model for today's world, is placed in confrontation with the West on one point.

A serious battle exists today between Islam and Western culture over the destiny of women. It is necessary for you to be fully aware of this, to be familiar with the powerful reasoning of Islam, and to know the facts about the West today, so that you can choose correctly.

At the moment, there is a serious debate in the Western media, in all their propaganda groups, aimed at imposing their contaminated culture on others, and at placing their incorrect path in front of us. We must examine the material they present to us with vigilance, and based on the Koran's explicit commands, we must then accept its positive aspects and reject the negative ones. [Koranic verse omitted] The path the Koran has laid before us in dealing with other cultures is this: We should listen to what is said, and choose the best.

This is the path we have been taking since the revolution, and we are now at the half-way point. The positive things that exist — which we share with the West — relate to allowing women to be present in society; opening the way to progress and development, to education, to work, to having a profession, to acting as managers, to making decisions about their own destiny, and so forth. Those aspects can be summarized as the provision of justice in the life of society, and the removal of the long-standing, historical injustice that has always existed with respect to women.

The point about which we disagree is that the West wants to combine these advances with immorality and corruption. This is directly counter to the interests of society and directly counter to the interests of women themselves. This is the situation that has evolved in the West. It is not the case that in the West, all women are corrupt and immoral. There are many educated, learned, healthy, active, scientific women there. However, the West presents the image of Western women in the way shown in harmful movies and in corrupt scenes of women mixing with men. [passage omitted] That is our point of difference with them.

Today, when they see this splendid and vast gathering of Iranian women wearing the hejab, they become angry and enraged. They do not wish to accept a culture that highlights the faults of their own immoral culture. The debate is mainly over this point; otherwise, as far as other aspects of social life are concerned, they know what is happening in Iran. If they do not know, let them come and see. All the positive aspects which can maintain women as an active and advancing element in society are encouraged and promoted by Islam. And, from our point of view, the most important of these is, for the time being, education, and constructing a true personality for women, something from which most of our women were deprived in the past.

Today, God be praised, 48 percent of our students in all areas are women, girls; in other words, only 2 percent less than the required 50 percent [as heard]. This is mostly to do with some Sunni families, the culture of which does not yet allow their girls to study in official schools; they study at home. This is gradually changing. If we do not take into account the quota specified in university entrance exams for former combatants, who are mainly men, we are in position to say that women's presence and successes in the university entrance exams are either equal to, or higher than, men.

Today, around 35 percent of our teachers are women; they control our children's brains and thought and are the most important factors in building the personality of human beings. Today, the same ratio also applies to our university students.

Since the revolution, with a strong presence of you ladies in the universities, we have reached a point whereby very soon in the next few years, women will be employed as university teachers and scientific and research experts. As many gentlemen will be absorbed into other sectors of society, the university, training and education scenes, which are also suitable to ladies, will be put at women's disposal.

Women today constitute around 600,000 state employees, which makes about 35 percent. You make up a large section of employees of the ministries of health, treatment, and medical education, education, and training and higher education. You hold very good posts. There is a difference, and that is that women have an advantage in the ratio of the level of education among state employees. It means that there are ladies whose level of education is much higher than some gentlemen. They hold degrees, diplomas, higher than diplomas, and bachelor's degrees, and higher. We have successful, educated women in many of the world's advanced sciences. You have witnessed the successes gained by female students in this year's [science] olympiad, who became science stars in the world. Women have a presence in almost all types of employment, such as Majles deputy, working in the judicial system, managers in government departments and in factories, in economic spheres, as doctors, engineers and researchers. They are rapidly taking up their positions, their suitable positions.

Today, during this well-organized gathering, we heard the roar of aircraft as they flew over us. The pilots of these aircraft were women. They were led by a woman instructor, who also trains many other women. The aircraft were flown by women pilots from among the basijis, who recently entered this profession. You witnessed the difficult repelling maneuver on the Azadi tower by ladies — Hezbollahi Basiji women. This maneuver was more difficult for them than for men as they were wearing chahdor. Of course, they choose to wear the hejab; they could have carried out the maneuver without wearing it. [passage omitted]

Jannati Deplores Return of Western Culture

LD1311163495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thousands of the people of Tehran gathered at Vali-ye 'Asr Square in Tehran this afternoon, stressing the importance of more accurately enforcing the principle of emphasizing virtues and proscribing vices in the society.

The participants at the rally objected to certain people's luxury-seeking and their disregard for national and Islamic values. They declared: Measures should be taken to preserve the national, Islamic, and cultural values of the society, and to further combat the foreign cultural onslaught in various fields. At the gathering Ayatollah Jannati, the secretary of the Islamic Publicity Council, said: Inspired by Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra [the Prophet's daughter], God's peace be upon her, Muslim women combat any oppression and injustice and any anti-Islamic and anti-human move in the society, and do not permit the western culture to return to Islamic Iran.

At the end of the rally the participants issued a resolution reiterating the remarks made by the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution about prescribing virtues and proscribing vices. They called on the religious scholars and seminaries to take steps to further enlighten the Muslim nation to propagate Islamic culture and values. The resolution also warns those few people who have been in awe of or deceived by foreign culture. It states: By supporting the esteemed clergy the Muslim people of Iran condemn and combat any foreign conspiracy or whisper about separating religion and politics.

Deputy Dastjerdi on Women's Role in Majles

LD1411110595 Tehran IRNA in English
0918 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA — Tehran's representative in the parliament (Majles) Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi emphasized the female's status in society, saying that women are powerful resources in socio-economic and cultural development.

In an interview with the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed on Tuesday, she said that over half of the population of Iran are women and that they have positive effects on the population, as well as on the development and environment of the country.

Speaking on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Hadhrat Fatima (SA) [My God bless her], Dastjerdi noted women's participation in social activities, comprising 26.5 percent of government employees and 40 percent of those who are actively engaged in the agricultural sector. The female population also plays a more crucial role in some fields than men, the Majles delegate pointed out.

Asked about women's presence in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles), she noted that the best place for making a decision regarding the improvement of women's status in the country is the Majles. She said, "I believe that women's problems can be better solved by women parliamentarians."

Meanwhile, females not only should participate in social, economic, political and cultural activities, but they should also have an active role in the formulation of laws, she stressed. As a member of the Majles Health Committee, Dastjerdi said that this committee has taken important measures related to population control in the country, adding that the Majles has devoted a considerable budget for this purpose. She added that lady parliamentarians have raised several issues in the Majles that relate to women, including the four-month period for maternity leave for female employees, a 25 to 50 percent share for women physicians in some medical fields such as heart and orthopaedic surgery, and support for women and children who have no breadwinner.

Referring to the second five-year development plan as the main outcome of the fourth Majles, Dastjerdi said that another important legislation that was recently passed was the medical insurance law which effectively provided medical services to 35 million persons.

In conclusion, Vahid Dastjerdi expressed satisfaction over women's efforts in the social, cultural and economic arenas and hoped for the further participation of women in the society.

Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi is a gynecologist from the Tehran medical university. She is also a member of the higher education council, the Majles health committee, the central council of physicians' Islamic association and a member of the Zeynab society.

Regime Accused of Oppressing Ethnic Arabs

95AE0073A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
27 Aug 95 pp 36-38

[Article by Fu'ad 'Abdallah al-Ka'abi: "Arabestan: Tehran Government Confiscates Arab Land; Constant Clashes Continue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the most important issues that stirs up the anxieties and uneasiness of Iranian leaders is escalating ethnic and independence disputes, along with worsening radical and sectarian problems in the country. These stem from the sectarian regime's extremist political and religious inclinations and interpretations, from whose legality it springs.

It is well known that Iran is marked by ethnic, social, and sectarian multiplicity. Within its confines, it harbors a number of peoples, such as Farsi, Turks (Azeris), Kurds, Arabs, Baluchis, and Turkmen.

Despite these peoples' issues, which have continued to exist since the creation of the modern Iranian state by Reza Khan Pahlavi — the previous shah's father — at the outset of this century, they are not presently an extreme danger to the Iranian regime or to the unity of the country. The explosive stage has not yet been reached, but all the domestic, regional, and international signs and portents indicate that the explosion is inevitable. This has induced Iranian intellectuals and politicians to direct warnings and express fears about the worsening of these issues. They could plunge the country into a dreadful civil war like Afghanistan, the former Yugoslavia, and certain of the republics that were subordinate to the former Soviet Union.

Recent times have seen the growth of news reports and commentaries about ethnic, social, and sectarian issues and the dangers to the country's independence and the Iranian people's unity that might arise from them. This has occurred not just in Iranian opposition and scholarly circles abroad, but also in the local press and governmental media agencies at home. Moreover, certain Friday prayers imams and officials in the regime spoke out recently, referring in their talks to the fact that these issues have escalated and broadened. They publicly recognized the increasing danger of these issues.

Contrary to the Iranian regime's claims, alleging that this quarter or that was working to ignite ethnic, sectarian disputes and clashes in the country, the main reason for the worsening of these issues and problems undoubtedly stems from this regime's domestic policies and positions. They have, in fact, led to weakening the basic support underlying the unity of the Iranian peoples and sects and their mutual oneness, which is the Islamic religion.

After gathering in the reins of power in the country, the present Iranian regime thought it possible to continue the shah's program represented by rejecting the issues pertaining to ethnic and racial multiplicity and ignoring the rights of the non-Farsi peoples. It believed it could deal with them by repression when necessity required, especially since it came heavily armed with influence and power not possessed by the shah. It skillfully used religious slogans for political purposes, imbuing everything it did with a religious and revolutionary hue.

However, developments unexpectedly emerged on the domestic scene. They were led by the regime's failure to implement its political and revolutionary slogans and fulfill its pledges to improve economic and living conditions, after the conclusion of the war with Iraq on the one hand, and the recent new regional and international developments on the other. The most important of those events was the breakup of the Soviet Union and the independence of Central Asian and Caucasian republics, particularly the Republics of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, both of which abut on Iran. Moreover, there was Iraqi Kurdistan's experiences after the end of the second Gulf war. All of this worried the Iranian regime and revealed serious mistakes in its calculations and evaluations.

After the recent developments and events and in light of the increasing importance of Iran's relations with the West, Iran's strategic importance and unique position in the midst of the ongoing dispute between East and West during the Cold War and the West's many interests in Iran no longer ensured western and international circles' neutrality vis-a-vis the Tehran regime's arrogant violations of human rights and the rights of the ethnic peoples in the country. On the contrary, this regime has begun to fear the West's use of the Iranian ethnic and sectarian card in its escalating dispute with Iran.

As for the Iranian Government's efforts to contain the problem domestically, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited both Arabestan (Khuzestan) and Azerbaijan in early 1993, where he inspected various areas and cities. He spoke in detail about his government's projects and development plans and promised — as is his custom — to settle all outstanding problems as soon as possible.

Story of Arabestan

What has acerbated the ongoing dispute in Arabestan between the Iranian regime and the Arab inhabitants was the government's initiative to begin implementing a project to expand the cultivation of sugarcane there. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on his recent visit to Arabestan, described this as huge national project and "the greatest agricultural project in Iran." The Arabs of the region, however, viewed this project with suspicion and doubt. They saw it as a most dangerous Iranian scheme to expropriate Arab lands in Arabestan from their owners, preparatory to initiating Farsi settlements as was done by the shah's regime in the Ahvaz area, where a settlement was built called Yazdanu. Here, a number of Farsi farmers and their families from Yazd and Esfahan in central Iran were settled, under cover of land reform and modernization of agriculture in the area. However, this settlement did not last long because the settlers fled during the Iranian Revolution, out of fear of attacks by the true owners of the land, the Arabs.

It is worth pointing out that, more than anything else, the matter that stirred up the hatred and anger of the Arab citizens in Arabestan was the Iranian Government's efforts to "Farsi-ize" their region and wipe out its Arabism. These efforts have continued in various forms since the downfall in 1925 of Shaykh Khaz'al who, to this day, was the last Arab ruler of the region. As for the latest agricultural project, the government began work on it by confiscating land adjacent to the banks of the Karun River in Arabestan. The regime also purchased land from Arabs by force and intimidation. This led to bloody disturbances and clashes between security forces and the land owners. These clashes have continued since last year, especially in the following areas: al-Shu'ubiyah, north of the region's capital of Ahvaz; Kut 'Abdallah; Kut Sayyid Salih; al-Jankiyah; al-Khazami; al-Ghazawiyah in the south; and the area of Dar Khuwin, on the Ahvaz-Abadan road. These events resulted in the wounding of scores and the arrest of hundreds of Arab citizens, most of whom were fellahin who resisted the confiscation of land and refused to sell their land to the Iranian Government.

Nevertheless, the Iranian Government's press did not mention these incidents, but they were reflected on more than one occasion when local officials complained about the people's aversion to participating in this project. Some of them, such as Engineer Nasratallah Kashani, vice chairman of the Board of Directors of the sugarcane expansion company in the region, admitted that the only problem that still stood in the way of implementing the project in certain areas was acquiring the land (the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, published in Tehran in April 1995).

With regard to that project, it was decided to use 84,000 hectares of land adjoining the banks of the Karun, divided into seven parts: two parts in the areas north of the city of Ahvaz called al-Shu'ubiyah and Radhakhda; and the other five in the southern areas of this city, called Mirza Kutashak Khan, Da'bal al-Khaza'., al-Ghazali, al-Farabi, and Amir Kabir.

What strengthened Arab doubts was that most of the land that was confiscated for the project, contrary to the government's pronouncements, was not wasteland, but rather it was planted in wheat, barley, greens, and fruit. Moreover, the ordinary Arab citizen in Arabestan began to ask: Why is the government undertaking this very expensive project, when the area is suffering from more important and pressing problems, such as the villages and towns that were destroyed during the Iran-Iraq War and have not yet been rebuilt? There is also the problem of mines, which are still taking the lives of scores of Arabs each year, most of whom are children.

In this context, the local and governmental newspapers have reported the concerns of those returning to their destroyed villages, such as Muhammarah (Khorramshahr), Abadan, and al-Bustayn, and the tragic conditions that prevail there. Many reports and commentaries have been published about mine victims in Arabestan, and the press has criticized the government's delay in resolving these problems, which have prominently shared in stirring up the public's feelings against the government.

No one understands the government's true purposes behind this huge agricultural project, however, the question that urgently requires an answer is: Why are the Arabs of this region suspicious of everything the Iranian regime does, even if it is a project that might result in substantial profit for their area? What are the reasons for the crisis in confidence between the Arabestan people and the present regime, since Khomeyni's coming to power was warmly accepted?

Revolution's Victory

To answer these questions, one must recall the importance of events in Arabestan after the fall of the shah's regime and the victory of the Iranian revolution in 1979.

When the Iranian revolution erupted, the people of the Arabestan region (Ahvaz) erupted along with it, taking part in public demonstrations and disturbances against the shah's regime. This was particularly true in the oil workers' strikes, which, without fanfare, participated in paralyzing the economy of the shah's regime and lowering its morale and, consequently, expediting its downfall. It is well known that Arabestan currently provides 90 percent of Iran's oil exports. The people of the region, as others of their country's ethnic, social, and economically oppressed citizens, saw in the revolution the ideal way to achieve their hopes and aspirations to end the discrimination and persecution, to regain their ethnic and cultural rights, to spread general freedoms, and to establish social justice.

Since the revolution's leaders, and their leading lights among men of religion, were considered the closest group in Iran to the Arabs, by virtue of their Arab-Islamic religion and culture, the people of Arabestan thought that the revolution's victory was a blessing for all Arabs and Muslims, especially since the mullahs had tirelessly opposed the shah's anti-Arab positions. There were also those who thought it unnecessary to condemn publicly the occupation of the three Arab islands in the Gulf: Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa. But, it was not long until the Arabs of the region discovered the spurious nature of the Khomeyni regime's claims and slogans, since it had begun to condemn all of the shah's domestic practices, except the suppression of the rights of Arab people in Arabestan, and to insist on the "Farsi-ization" of this region. It also sharply criticized all of the shah's foreign policies, except the occupation of the three islands and solidifying the fait accompli there. At this point, one should point out that the moment when the Arabestanis discovered the true inclinations of the new Iranian government was the meeting that was held during the early days of the revolution's victory, between Khomeyni and members of the delegation that went to Tehran to represent Arabestan and to present the demands of its Arab people. These issues were less than the other Iranian peoples' demands, such as the Kurds, Baluchis, and Turkmens who, at that time, were insisting on obtaining complete and absolute autonomy.

The delegation members were under the influence of the revolution, and they looked to Khomeyni as a spiritual guide and Islamic leader more than as a political leader. They spoke with him in the language of the Koran and explained to him their people's oppression and injustice, during the Pavlavi regime, in that same language, however, Khomeyni's response was a surprise and a blow to the delegation members, dashing their hopes and revealing the true intention of the new regime and its leading light. Khomeyni refused to talk in Arabic in which he was proficient. He addressed the delegation members in Farsi, saying: "Since you prefer to speak in your language, I also prefer to speak in my mother tongue."

In offering his blunt rejection of their legitimate demands, he denied the very existence of ethnic multiplicity in Iran and any ethnic oppression in the country. That negatively affected the hearts of the delegation members. They considered it to be clear evidence of the new regime's insistence on continuing policies followed by the shah's regime in this regard, even though by different means and forms.

After the news spread concerning the mullahs' regime's refusal to recognize the Arabs' rights that had been trampled by the shah's regime for many years and especially the revolutionary leaders' unexpected position, along with the regime's appointment of Admiral Ahmad Madani as governor of Arabestan, relations between the Arabs and the new regime's leaders became strained. Ethnic disputes began to escalate sharply in the region.

The cultural and political institutions and centers established by the people of the regions during the revolution were able to develop significantly, and their bases widened among all segments of the population throughout the area. Political parades were organized and many forums and conferences were held in order to raise the Arabs' political and cultural consciousness. For the first time in the history of modern Arabestan, a comprehensive popular and ethnic awakening occurred, however, the Iranian regime, after sensing the danger of the growth of political and ethnic consciousness in the region, began to prepare to contain this movement politically and militarily. It established "cultural-military centers", using Islam as a cover for their true purposes. Military organizations were established, which included elements known for their hostility to Arabs. Behind the guise of religion, they carried out provocations, which plunged the region into a period of tension and upheaval, including sporadic incidents of violence and clashes.

Meanwhile, Grand Ayatollah Shaykh Muhammad Tahir al-Shabir al-Khaqani, the spiritual leader of the Arabestani people, added his voice to their just demands, after sensing the regime's denial of their rights and its determination to contain and stop their movement. He began to emphasize the need to recognize the ethnic and cultural rights of all the Iranian peoples—Arabs, Kurds, Azeris, Baluchis, Turkmen, and others.

Military Rule

It is worthy of mention that the late Ayatollah al-Khaqani was one of the senior religious authorities and the author of many books and papers concerning religious law and philosophy. His most famous book is *Critique of Experimentalism*. He was a political and spiritual leader of both Arabs and Farsis equally, and Khomeyni's representative in the city of Muhammarah (Khorramshahr) during the revolution.

As for Admiral Madani, as soon as he was appointed governor of the region, he reorganized the ranks of the regime's mullahs and used Komanduz [commando] forces from outside the area. He took broad steps to prepare the naval forces in Muhammarah, which was especially targeted by the Iranian regime as the main center of political and cultural activity for the Arab movement and a symbol of Arabism in the region at that time. In addition, it had religious status, since al-Khaqani and his seminary were located there, as well as historic importance, represented by the fact that it had been Shaykh Khaz'al al-Ka'abi's capital, the last ruler of the Arabs in the region.

In 1979, Admiral Madani surprised the citizens with a savage attack against the Arab centers, implementing a military plan he had previously prepared. The Komanduz forces, the Revolutionary Guard, and the Navy attacked the Arab centers in Muhammarah and stormed the Arab Cultural Center, which was only an unarmed cultural gathering place. They forcibly arrested hundreds of persons who were taking refuge there. With machine guns and grenades, they attacked a building of the "political organization of the Arab people" and killed whoever was inside. Arab demonstrators then took to the streets, expressing their wrath at the region's governor and existing regime and expressing solidarity with the Arab cultural and political centers. Clashes broke out between the people and the government's forces, lasting for three days, during which hundreds of Arab citizens were killed and wounded and large numbers arrested. At the same time, similar incidents occurred in other areas of the region, such as Ahvaz, Abadan, and Felahiyah.

Because of this regime, some of Arabestan's inhabitants were forced to use violence and armed struggle as a means to achieve their hopes and aspirations. The regime, which the revolution had produced, proceeded to kill them. An unprecedented state of violence, unrest, and anger prevailed in the region. The military centers, economic institutions, and oil installations in the region were subjected to painful military strikes by the Arabs.

The Iranian regime's response was violent. A large number of Arabs were thrown into prison and subjected to all types of torture, rights' abuses, and military mock trials, which sentenced to death hundreds of youths, most of whom had no connection with the acts of violence that had occurred in the region. Moreover, the home of Ayatollah Khaqani was raided, and he was imprisoned with a number of his followers, in a manner that was unseemly for someone of his religious stature and incompatible with Islamic values and principles. This was done in an attempt to spread terror and panic in the hearts of his supporters, oust him from Qom, and put him under house arrest. He died under obscure circumstances in this exile in 1985.

Acts of violence continued, and matters increased in complexity day after day in Arabestan, until the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq War, which caused political, social, economic, military, and demographic changes in the region's circumstances. The ayatollahs' revolution was unsuccessful in dealing with the bitterness and injustice in Arabestan, and the Tehran regime failed utterly to extinguish and end the social disparities, ethnic clashes, and sectarian arrogance. On the contrary, it escalated them, so that the bonds that tie the Iranian peoples together became threatened.

Hijacker Apologizes, Appeals for Clemency

LD1211124395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The verdict at the trial of a man accused of hijacking an aircraft will be announced next week. Today, the trial of Gholamreza Vahidju, son of Hasan, charged with hijacking, continued in Tehran's Islamic revolution tribunal. The accused confessed to his crime, expressed shame for having committed the deed, apologized to the nation and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and called for clemency.

Gholamreza Vahidju hijacked an Iranian Boeing 727, with 150 people on board, en route from Tehran to Bushehr in 1363 [1984-85] on the eve of international al-Qods [Jerusalem] Day.

Tells of Plans for Seizing Plane

LD1211191595 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA — The open trial of Gholamreza Vahidju who hijacked Iranian Boeing 727 to Iraq on a domestic flight from Tehran to the southern city of Bushehr in 1984 was held in Tehran on Sunday [12 November].

Vahidju said at the Islamic Revolution court that 10 days before the hijacking, a friend of his, Hamid Ahari, offered him a membership of a group and an income for the distribution of the publication of Bakhtiar group, which he refused.

Ahari, presently at large was the main culprit behind the hijacking.

"I was fond of going abroad. One day Ahari approached me and proposed that we hijack a plane for going abroad. He prepared the plan. We reserved two seats in Tehran on a plane bound for Bushehr," Vahidju told the court.

"After a while, Hamid entered the cockpit around Bushehr and I stood behind the cockpit with a knife and a bag claiming that the bag was loaded with explosives," he said.

Vahidju pointed out that the pilot refused to fly to Iraq despite Ahari's insistence and both Saudi Arabia and Bahrain closed down their airports.

He went on to say, "We were forced to have an emergency landing at Qatar airport where the plane refueled. The pilot still refused to land at Baghdad airport and Egypt was the only country which admitted us."

He stated, "We arrived at Cairo airport at midnight and surrendered ourselves to the Egyptian officials."

"Two or three days later one Iraqi official arrived in Cairo and took us to Baghdad in a special plane," he said.

The judge, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahbarpour said the hijacking had taken place in a crucial time of the international Qods [Jerusalem] day and the commemoration anniversary of 72 top statesmen who were martyred in a bomb explosion planted at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party in Tehran in 1981.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahbarpour said the final verdict on the hijacker will be announced at the weekend.

Pakistan

Editorial Assails U.S. Policy on Muslim Countries

BK1311122095 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 13 Nov 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Brown Amendment and the Islamic World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Senator Brown has said the United States wants to establish better relations with the Muslim world. He said: Pakistan's treatment under the Pressler Amendment was giving rise to doubts and suspicions toward the United States among the Muslim countries; that is why I proposed an amendment in the

Senate to remove this injustice. In an interview with the SAUDI GAZETTE, he said that with the approval of the Brown Amendment, relations between the United States and the Islamic world will grow stronger. The sanctions imposed on Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment were strengthening the feeling among Muslim countries that Pakistan has been singled out and subjected to terms that are not applied to others.

Without a doubt, Pakistan's treatment under the Pressler Amendment was highly unjustified and prejudiced. Pakistan paid for the airplanes and the weapons before the passage of the Pressler Amendment. Pakistan also halted its nuclear program under U.S. pressure. Nevertheless, the airplanes and weapons were embargoed for a long time. Meanwhile, India remained busy preparing nuclear missiles and the United States did not impose any restrictions on it. In fact, after the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan, Pakistan lost its importance for the United States. The United States was not reluctant to say this openly. There was no justification for keeping the ammunition we had already paid for. This was a violation of the commercial code of ethics.

The present government tried very hard to have the Pressler Amendment annulled. The U.S. authorities also realized that the objectives of the Pressler law had been achieved. The arms race in South Asia could not be stopped; on the contrary, the U.S. action created a sense of insecurity among the countries of the region. Therefore, the United States agreed to soften the Pressler Amendment to the extent that Pakistan could receive those weapons and spare parts that had already been paid for, and the money for the planes could be returned to Pakistan after their sale to another country. The Brown Amendment only applies to the deal for which Pakistan had already paid. The restrictions on the purchase of U.S. arms by Pakistan will remain. The Pressler Amendment will remain intact despite the approval of the Brown Amendment.

The fact is that the United States has not done Pakistan a great favor. It is not certain when Pakistan will get the money back that was paid for the F-16's. As for the supply of arms, Senator Brown said that President Clinton will sign the amendment by next month, after which Pakistan will receive the military equipment.

The expectation that this single decision will lead to the strengthening of relations between the United States and the Muslim countries is probably wishful thinking. Without a doubt, the United States is the sole superpower in the world today. It controls all the international monetary agencies. The United Nations is like its slave. Not only the Muslim countries, but most of the countries in the world are helpless in their relations with the United States. As far as the attitude of the United States toward the Muslim countries is concerned, most Muslim countries are complaining about it. Their complaints and displeasure with the United States are not baseless.

Iran is the first example in this regard. The United States has frozen Iranian assets worth $12 million and has declared it a terrorist state. It has imposed economic sanctions and has instigated other countries to carry out an economic boycott against Iran. The United States leveled baseless allegations against Iran that it was preparing nuclear weapons to force Russia not to provide it with a nuclear plant. Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel has clearly said that U.S. policy is to isolate Iran. On President Clinton's advice, U.S. companies have discontinued their investment deals with Iran.

In Pakistan's case, in addition to the injustice carried out under the Pressler law, the United States has not provided any help in the settlement of the Kashmir dispute. On the other hand, it did not delay an attack on Iraq when its own interests were at stake. In the case of Kashmir, the United States has a separate standard of justice despite the fact that India has violated the UN resolutions and is inflicting brutalities on the Kashmiri people.

Even with the newly independent state of Bosnia, the treatment by the United States has been unfair and unjustified. An arms embargo has been imposed on Bosnia while the Serbs are free to acquire weapons and inflict any kind of brutality on the Bosnian Muslims. President Clinton threatened the U.S. Congress that if it passed a resolution to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnians he would veto it. The United States is well aware of the shameful treatment of the Bosnian Muslims by some of the UN troops. What has it done to protect the freedom of this state or stop Serb atrocities against the Bosnian Muslims?

Libya and Sudan are also considered terrorists by the United States. Despite Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war and its acceptance of UN conditions, the economic boycott and aerial barricade still continues. Thousands of Iraqi children have died from lack of food and medicine, but the United States is not ready to lift these sanctions. Had the United States taken any interest in the transfer of power in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, that country would not be entangled in a civil war. The Afghan mojahedin of yesterday are now considered terrorists by the United States. Israel is a peaceful country in the eyes of the United States despite acquiring nuclear weapons, not vacating occupied Arab territory, and giving only nominal self-rule to the Palestinians.

The United States must change its views and attitude toward Muslim countries. The 1.2 billion Muslims and 53 free Muslim states of the world can cooperate with the United States in the effort to establish a durable peace and remove injustice. Such cooperation can ensure peace, stability, and prosperity all over the world.

Sanctions Against Nigeria Called Anti-Muslim

BK1411122295 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Nigeria the Next Target"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The execution of writer and environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other minority activists after a secret trial is cruel and deplorable to say the least and the world community has every right to register its indignation but the punitive nature of reaction of C'wealth and the US is not only out of proportion and seemingly premeditated but also violates international law which governs relations between sovereign states. C'wealth took the unprecedented step of suspending the membership of Nigeria and the US government said it would oppose IMF loans and credit and debt relief to Nigeria. This over reaction becomes more resounding when one considers the despicable indolence of these stalwarts of human rights towards more persistent crimes against humanity in other parts of the world. Not a day passes without at least a dozen people getting brutally murdered by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. People are kidnapped, tortured even burned alive in the Kashmir Valley without giving a sleepless night anyone in the West of the US. The executions of Islamists in Egypt does not prick anyone's conscience. The merciless suppression of the activists of Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria has failed to draw any protests. Since the West did not want an Islamic government in Algeria, it closed its eyes to the annulment of election results in favour of FIS.

Do the frequent beheadings in Saudi Arabia conform to the American or Western philosophy of justice? Are these trials any better than the trial of Saro Wiwa and eight others in Nigeria? If human rights violations tantamount to inviting economic sanctions then what about the mass graves of Muslims in Serb-occupied Bosnia? [sentence as published]

All kinds of punitive actions against Nigeria are being threatened. It is definitely not because of the perceived human rights violations in executing nine political activists after summary trials. The incident is merely being used as a pretext to strangulate Nigeria which has the potential of becoming a leading Muslim nation in Africa.

The situation in Nigeria is very volatile. It is a country of 100 million people made up of some 250 ethnic or language groups. Saro-Wiwa was demanding a sovereign state for Ogoni people and the resentment of the government for a demand like this under circumstances like such is only natural. Still it does not justify the executions. At the same time, no country or a group of countries has the right to take punitive actions on purely internal affairs of a sovereign state.

Nigeria is the most populous country of Africa, richly endowed by nature — high grade crude oil being its major asset. It is the fourth biggest in OPEC and its natural gas resources can keep Western Europe warm for about ten years.

Considered the superpower of Africa, it is the most resourceful country in the area and has the potential of emerging as a strong leader in Africa. It was through the efforts of Nigeria that the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) Summit became rotational which used to be held traditionally at Marlborough House in London. Again Nigeria played a leading role in the return of Pakistan to the Commonwealth after a few years lapse.

After a brief period of economic boom in the 70s, Nigeria economy is in shambles, both for internal and external reasons. Internally, corruption and ethnicity are tearing the country apart. Two decades ago, Nigeria fought a tribal war that killed one million people.

Among external factors, the heartless economic exploitation by West and the US did its best to lick the country dry. In exchange for crude oil, the European and American companies inflated their commodity and services prices to the maximum. Taking full advantage of the unstable oil market, they deftly exploited the situation to bring giant to its knees. Despite being an oil rich country, Nigeria is the sickman of Africa, thanks to the diabolic expertise of the US and its western allies.

Economic sanctions is a favourite stick of the US and its western allies to beat the developing states with. They close their eyes to the same or even more serious violations in their surrogate states. It is no coincidence that economic sanctions against Muslim countries are most ruthlessly applied.

Sanctions against any state are drastic measures and need desperate situations to justify their application. The executions of political activists, no matter how deplorable and unjust, do not warrant such a stern response against a sovereign state. The OIC should take serious note of this highly discriminate action against a

Muslim state which does not happen to be a favourite of the West.

Mirani Commends Army for Foiling Coup Plot

BK1411140195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The minister for defense, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, told the Senate that a small group of army officers, along with a few civilian accomplices, had planned to eliminate the military leadership as well as the president and the prime minister during September last. In a written statement, which the defense minister read on the opening day of the 62d session [of the Senate] this morning, he said the conspirators involved in the central plot included a major general, a brigadier, three colonels, about six or seven other officials, and some civilians who had knowledge of the plan and were included in the inquiry. He said two senior officials — a major general and a brigadier — involved in the conspiracy were passed over for promotion. They disguised their personal ambitions in the garb of religion. They intended to impose a self- styled shariat [Islamic legal system] through a coup. He said the general officer was to become chief of the army staff and amirul momineen [commander of the faithful]. The defense minister said investigations have proved that this conspiracy had nothing to do with the Kashmir freedom struggle.

The defense minister said besides weapons and equipment, substantial evidence to overthrow the government have been recovered from the conspirators, including handwritten planning notes, manifesto of a new constitution, outline of a new political system, a speech to be delivered on radio and television, names of persons to be eliminated and those to be installed on various appointments in the Army. Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani said the salient features of the plan were the storming of the conference hall by a hidden assailant during the corps commanders conference scheduled on 30th September, elimination of complete military leadership, including corps commanders, principal staff officers, and other officers present; and takeover of the Army command. He said under the plan, after taking over the Army leadership, the conspirators planned to arrest the key personalities of the political leadership. He said the weapons seized from the conspirators included 26 AK-47 rifles, one rocket launcher with five rockets, 50 hand grenades, and complete set of commando uniforms numbering 30. They had also paid for the purchase of seven walkie-talkie sets, 63 magazine sets, 3,000 rounds of AK-47 rifles, five Chinese pistols, and 35 Darra- made pistols.

The defense minister commended the Army for foiling the scheme, which would have plunged the country into a state of anarchy and chaos. He also lauded the Army, saying it was professional and well disciplined, motivated by Islamic values and imbued with Muslim traditions. He assured the house that the law will take its proper course and those involved in the conspiracy shall be dealt with under military law. [passage omitted]

Court Martial Recommended

BK1411070295 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Ihtasham ul Haque]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 11 — A high level team of army experts, undertaking an inquiry into the conduct of some army officers, has concluded that a group of senior officers tried to stage a coup on Sept 26 by planning to "eliminate nine corps commanders and four principle staff officers in the General Headquarters (GHQ)" and has recommended their court martial.

Informed sources told Dawn here on Saturday that a communication was also delivered to all the lieutenant generals by the director-general of Military intelligence (MI), Lt Gen. Mahmud, informing them that a conspiracy had been hatched to storm into the corps commanders meeting on Sept 26 and capture power.

"Blueprints of the planned coup along with video and audio cassettes have been recovered which were to be broadcast and telecast on state-run radio and television after elimination of all the nine corps commanders and four principle staff officers [PSO's] and claiming that a true Islamic revolution has come in Pakistan," a source said. The four PSOs are: Quarter Master General (QMG), Chief of the General Staff (CGS), Adjutant General (AG), and Master General of Ordinance (MGO). A one-page communication circulated by the director-general MI, also said that there were two groups in the arrested army officers. One belonged to the inner circle which was to conduct the operation while the other was asked to be ready for any instant assignment.

Sources said those who were involved only in extending verbal support to what they called "Jihad in the occupied Kashmir" were likely to be released soon. However, those who had established contact with Harkatul Ansar of the occupied Kashmir and were providing them arms and ammunition by smuggling them from Darra Adam Khel in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and some parts of Afghanistan will have to undergo stringent investigations if not a court martial.

There were about 40 officers including Maj Gen Zahir ol-Islam' Abbasi, and Brig [Brigadier] Mustansar Billah who were arrested on Sept 26 on being tipped by former chief of the AIL [expansion unknown] Maj Gen Ali Quli

Khan, who was latter promoted to the rank of Lt Gen. Sources said more arrests were likely after completion of further investigation which was being undertaken now.

Sources added that the MI chief also said in his communication that there was a wave of sectarianism and extremism in Pakistan which has to be curbed to save the country. This is a dangerous trend and could tear apart the whole fabric of the society if not timely checked, he further reportedly stated.

Sources said that the Army chief, General Abdul Waheed, is expected to call on President Farooq Leghari who is also the Supreme Commander on his return from New Zealand to discuss the matter.

Editorial Extols Army's Response

BK1511072795 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Nov 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Abortive Coup"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The timely action by the Army authorities in foiling an alleged coup attempt by some officers has saved the country from a situation which would have opened the gates for total anarchy. The chilling details given by Minister of Defense Shaban Mirani reveal a seditious plot, which apart for its claimed "objectives" included the elimination of the military leadership, the President and the Prime Minister. The essential element in the exercise of this alleged conspiracy was the high level of bloodshed that it would have involved, initially in implementing it, and the subsequent attempts at imposing the new order. It is this aspect that is most terrifying as it would have set a blood drenched precedent, undoing the peaceful nature of coups, successful otherwise, although such acts are in themselves unfortunate.

The alleged conspirators, which included a major general, a brigadier, three colonels and a civilian, overtly aimed at imposing a self-styled Shariah, and evidently much that goes with such an objective as conceived by people who are moved by selfish rather than noble intentions. The fact that two senior officers had been passed over for promotion, causing frustration, had evidently led them to plan the take-over bid, camouflaged in religious sentiment to attract other adherents to their "cause". The bizarre plans included declaring the general officer as chief of Army Staff and "Ameer-ul-Monineen" [head of the believers].

The details made available by the defense minister reveal a plan which carefully follows the stereotyped blueprint of staging a putsch. It would begin with the elimination of the military leadership, arresting the main political leaders, taking control of the electronic information media, a speech of intentions of the leader, etc.

In this design, the most frightening aspect was the alleged plan to storm the Corps Commanders Conference begin held on September 30 and eliminating the entire army leadership, which include the COAS [Chief of Army Staff], the PSOs [Principal Staff Officers] and others, followed by taking over of the army commend.

The necessary inputs for the alleged conspiracy had also been collected. These included the personnel, weapons, communication system, speeches, manifesto of the new constitution, outline of a political system, etc.

The aborted output was power. A cover was to be provided by declaring that the effort was aimed at aiding the Kashmir freedom struggle. It all seems like a "Do it Yourself" kit, only it was a dangerous exercise which placed these security of the state in jeopardy.

The Army should be commended for the successful manner in which it unearthed the alleged conspiracy and arrested the persons involved. It cannot be said at any stage whether the exercise would have succeeded or failed, but it had within it the seeds of a malaise that would have long haunted this country. The Army's action has not only proved its own high level of professionalism but strengthened the nation's faith in those who defend it.

Sri Lanka

Fleeing LTTE 'Terrorists' Said Looting Civilians

BK1511042195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres suffering severe defeat in Jaffna have now resorted to destroying public property. Latest reports said that the terrorists have destroyed the telecommunication tower in Jaffna. The reports also said that the LTTE fighting a losing battle have started looting the houses of innocent civilians in Jaffna. They have resorted to such action since they were now in distress.

Political analysts say that the LTTE, which announced that they were the saviors of the Tamils were living in comfort while civilians suffered. It has been reported that terrorist leaders were living in airconditioned apartments and leading a luxurious life. It has been revealed that some of the bunkers in which the terrorists lived were terrazzo-floored and equipped with modern facilities. It has been proved beyond doubt that the same

LTTE terrorist leaders who painted a false picture to the international community that the Jaffna people were starving without government food supplies are now living in luxury. The security forces have recovered various items from the terrorists during the Riviresa Operation, which included weapons, cheese, grapes, apples, and other luxury food items.

Troops of Operation Riviresa marched into Kondavil North, a suburb of Jaffna town, and captured the office of the Tamil Eelam Development Organization [TEDO]. They killed an estimated 60 terrorists. This TEDO office is headed by a person called Ravi. It had drawn up a detailed plan for the economic development of the proposed Tamil Eelam, which extended to the border of the Amparai and Monaragalla districts in the east and upto Chilaw, the fishing town in the northwest of the country. They had also recovered a large number of vital terrorist documents.

Government troops today captured an LTTE training complex, an auditorium, and a press office in addition to a training camp where they found 300 lunch parcels which had been left behind by the fleeing terrorists. Troops also captured the LTTE heroes cemetery at (Mahavihar) in Kondavil North which is beautifully landscaped with white sands and (?Dubayy) roses, and with cement coffins above the ground in which the bodies of hundreds of terrorists are entombed. According to intelligence reports, the LTTE had planned to hold a commemoration ceremony at the cemetery for their dead on the 26th of this month. Meanwhile, intelligence reports say that the LTTE police force has been disband and its chief, Madeson, had been camped to Chavakachcheri.

Jaffna Reduced to 'Ghost Town' Ahead of Expected Attack

BK1511045495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0438 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 15 (AFP) — Thousands of Sri Lankan soldiers were poised to attack the Tamil rebel-held town of Jaffna reduced to a ghost town after the guerrillas ordered out remaining civilians. [sentence as received]

"Only the Bishop of Jaffna is left there," said one Tamil source Wednesday [15 November].

Tamil sources said the Tigers, which have vowed to defend Jaffna to the last man, ordered the few remaining civilians in the town to quit Tuesday.

The International Red Cross have already withdrawn from the area.

"The intensive and widespread shelling of the city has rendered it impossible for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to function with safety," the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement issued from its London office.

It said troops backed by tanks and armoured cars were moving towards Jaffna, the capital of the northern province ruled by them as a de facto separate state since 1990.

The ICRC pull out came Tuesday as the advancing army captured the rebels' political headquarters at the small town of Kondavil on the outskirts of Jaffna and tightened its grip in the island's war-torn north.

Medical staff and delegates of the Geneva-based ICRC moved their operations from Jaffna to Point Pedro on the eastern side of the peninsula where there has not been fighting, the relief agency and the Colombo government said.

The shift followed fierce clashes just outside Jaffna town and the ICRC urged both the government and LTTE to spare medical facilities it was leaving behind in Jaffna, now reduced to a ghost town.

Sri Lankan troops pressing a month-long military offensive late Monday captured the strategic town of Kondavil after hand-to-hand fighting in which at least one soldier was killed and another 28 wounded, the military said.

The LTTE said it lost seven fighters and claimed its forces killed "several" soldiers.

The military said the troops, determined to defeat the LTTE in its bastion, were just two kilometres (1.25 miles) from Jaffna town, the psychologically important symbol of Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka.

A total of some 15,000 troops, were advancing on Jaffna, military officials said, adding that they were moving in two columns. One was, however, bogged down by vast minefields near a LTTE war cemetery.

At least 322 soldiers and nearly 1,400 guerrillas have been killed in the military offensive launched October 17. Thousands have been wounded on both sides.

Tens of thousands of Tamil civilians displaced by the fighting have become refugees in the south of the peninsula and in neighbouring district of Kilinochchi.

More than 50,000 people have died in the Tigers' fight for a homeland called Eelam in Sri Lanka's Northeast. The LTTE says the Tamils, Sri Lanka's minority community, are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

Government Troops Continue Advance Toward Jaffna

BK1511112995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Riviresa continue their advance in Jaffna. Security forces marched into Kondavil North yesterday and captured the office of the Tamil Eelam Development Organization. This office headed by a person called Ravi had detailed plan for the economic development of the proposed Tamil Eelam. Another division advanced along the Western flank and captured a large terrorist training camp, two kilometers south of Urumpirai. The camp comprised an elaborate network of roads, building complexes, lecture halls with underground bunkers, and well equipped training center. Troops recovered arms, ammunition, and military equipment left behind by the terrorists.

Meanwhile, about 220 persons, including 50 patients from the Jaffna town, arrived at the Point Pedro Hospital last evening, and they requested the medical authorities in the Jaffna Teaching Hospital the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] had evacuated all medical personnel with their families to Point Pedro. [sentence as heard]

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